



FLORAL DESIGNS FOR THE TABLE.



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Grace W. Morse

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FLORAL DESIGNS FOR THE TABLE.



FLORAL **D**ESIGNS FOR THE **T**ABLE;

BEING

DIRECTIONS FOR ITS ORNAMENTATION WITH LEAVES, FLOWERS, & FRUIT.

WITH

CLASSIFIED LISTS OF SUITABLE PLANTS, BERRIES, AND LEAVES,

AND

TWENTY-FOUR ORIGINAL COLOURED DESIGNS.

BY

JOHN PERKINS,

HEAD GARDENER FOR TWENTY-NINE YEARS TO THE LATE AND PRESENT LORD HENNIKER.

LONDON:

WYMAN & SONS, 81, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LINCOLN'S-INN FIELDS, W.C.

1877.



TO
THE RIGHT HON. THE DOWAGER LADY HENNIKER,

THIS VOLUME IS, BY SPECIAL PERMISSION,

DEDICATED,

BY
HER LADYSHIP'S MOST OBEDIENT HUMBLE SERVANT,

JOHN PERKINS.



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INTERLUDE



THINK it was Cowper who said, "He who tells a long story, should take care that it is not made a long story by his manner of telling it. His expression should be natural, and his method clear; the incidents should be interrupted by very few reflections, and parentheses should be entirely discarded." My story would be a long one were I to recapitulate all my experience in Table Decorations during the past twenty-nine years, but I will endeavour to tell it as shortly as possible, and my method shall be as clear as I can make it.

In this book-making age, writers generally give some reasons for their publications. I have two: one is, I think every man should contribute his mite for the benefit of his fellows; the other is, that I think a work on this subject, showing at a glance how a Dinner Table for from eight up to one hundred persons should be decorated, will be welcomed not only by those who are called upon to embellish the tables of the upper classes of society, but also by that important and numerous class who are in the habit of giving entertainments which aim to be distinguished by their simplicity and elegance, rather than their mere costliness.

Whilst I do not presume to teach those who may possibly know more than myself, still I am sanguine that this work will give some valuable hints to others who have but little knowledge and experience of this kind of decoration. Personally, I have never seen or even heard of any work like the present; it is, therefore, superfluous to add that nothing has been culled from other sources.

Most ladies love flowers and take a great interest in Floral Decoration, and by universal consent in matters of taste and refinement, none are better judges. The talented Lady who has kindly permitted her name to be associated with this work stands in the foremost rank as regards taste in dinner table and other decorations.

The Dinner "à la Russe" has, within the last ten or fifteen years, become so fashionable and popular that to have a dinner in these days without the accompaniment of Cut Flowers, Plants, Ornamental Leaves, &c., would be like dessert without wine. Some years ago shallow receptacles made of zinc or glass in various shapes were much used. This was a step in the right direction, by bringing the flowers, &c., more directly under the eye. These trough-like-looking vessels were filled with sand, and a border of juniper shoots, ivy and other leaves, placed outside, and the centres filled up with flowers. These after a time gave way to a more elegant and effective style of decoration, a style, I venture to say, which will hold its own for many years to come. This plan is to have the principal part of the decoration on the tablecloth itself.

INTRODUCTION.

A flower garden, when looked upon from some distance above its own elevation, is far more pleasing to the eye than otherwise ; so it is with table decoration. Some may perhaps think that laying the leaves, flowers, &c., on the cloth might soil the damask ; but with proper care on the part of the gardener or person to whom the work of decorating the table is entrusted, not the slightest disfigurement need be made. Others may exclaim, What a waste of flowers ! But here again it is not by the large quantity of flowers, but by "the way" in which they are arranged that the effect is produced. A few leaves and flowers elegantly combined are far more effective and pleasing than when put on the cloth in heaps, regardless of form or colour. Lightness and elegance should be the motto of every dinner-table decorator, and the view across the table should not be obstructed more than is absolutely necessary.

After the decorator has tried some of the designs which this work contains, he will soon find out that the decoration of a table is more easily done than he might imagine, and he will readily admit the superiority of the work when well done by this method to the plan formerly adopted with the old zinc trough.

I may mention that in large establishments about five designs will be required for each week, and it will of course be advisable to have them as different in character as possible each night. The materials for the one decided upon may often be gathered two or three hours before wanted, and well damped with clean water (flowers excepted). Fern fronds, lycopodiums, and such things, are best immersed in water for a few minutes to cleanse them from all grit, &c., and vine leaves will often require sponging : when all are ready, they should be placed carefully in a flat basket or box, and be put in a cool place until wanted. About half an hour or an hour before the time for dinner—according to the size of the table to be decorated—operations should be commenced. It is necessary to see that all lamps, plants, dishes, glasses, spoons, knives, forks, &c., are first properly placed on the table, as any irregularities in this matter would probably upset the whole arrangements.

When all is ready, the centre of the table should, if possible, be done first, finishing off at the outsides. Each piece of fern, ivy, &c., should have a slight shake to relieve it of any superfluous water which might otherwise remain about it.

As each design will speak for itself, and a brief description is given of the materials employed, it will be only necessary to state that after the company have left the dining-room, the groom of the chambers or the under butler should place any fern fronds, leaves, or anything else worth preserving, into water, whereby many useful pieces may be saved, and be made available for other purposes the following day.

I may here observe that those who prefer to have fountains on the table, with jets of water playing at dinner-time, have only to consult the persons who fix such contrivances ; and those who wish to have pots of plants sunk through the table can have extra leaves made of common deal, in which circular holes can be pierced at the required distances.

In concluding these introductory remarks, I would add that I do not presume to have fully exhausted this interesting subject, but I hope that I have succeeded in adding "one more link to the chain," and therefore beg the forgiveness of those critics who may think the volume incomplete.

THE GARDENS, THORNHAM HALL, SUFFOLK.
October, 1877

JOHN PERKINS.

A GENERIC LIST OF PLANTS

FROM WHICH SUITABLE SPECIMENS MAY BE SELECTED, TO SUIT ALL TASTES,
FOR DINNER-TABLE DECORATION.

Achimenes ...	<i>various.</i>	Citrus ...	<i>various.</i>	Hepatica ...	<i>various.</i>	Platycerium ...	<i>various</i>
Adiantum ...	"	Clerodendron ...	"	Hibiscus ...	"	Pleocnemia ...	"
Agrostis ...	"	Cocos ...	"	Hoteia ...	"	Poinsettia ...	"
Alocasia ...	"	Coleus ...	"	Hoya ...	"	Polypodium ...	"
Amaranthus ...	"	Correa ...	"			Polystichum ...	"
Ananassa ...	"	Croton ...	"	Isolepis ...	"	Primula ...	"
Anæctochilus ...	"	Curcoligo ...	"			Pteris ...	"
Andropogon ...	"	Cyclamen ...	"	Jacaranda ...	"		
Anthurium ...	"	Cyperus ...	"			Revina ...	"
Aralia ...	"	Cypripedium ...	"	Kentia ...	"	Rhodea ...	"
Areca ...	"					Rosa ...	"
Artocarpus ...	"	Davalia ...	"			Russelia ...	"
Aspidium ...	"	Dæmonorops ...	"	Lastræa ...	"		
Asplenium ...	"	Desmoncus ...	"	Lomaria ...	"	Sarracenia ...	"
Athyrium ...	"	Dracæna ...	"	Lycaste ...	"	Scolopendrium ...	"
Azalea ...	"	Drosera ...	"	Lycopodium ...	"	Selaginella ...	"
						Solanum ...	"
Begonia ...	"	Elægnus ...	"	Martinezia ...	"	Sonchus ...	"
Blechnum ...	"	Epacris ...	"	Masdevallia ...	"	Sonerila ...	"
		Epiphyllum ...	"	Myrtus ...	"	Sophrontitis ...	"
Caladium ...	"	Eragrostis ...	"			Stipa (grass) ...	"
Calamus ...	"	Erica ...	"	Nepenthes ...	"	Strawberry (Alpine) ...	"
Campsidium ...	"	Erythrina ...	"	Nephrolepis ...	"		
Capsicum ...	"	Euonymus ...	"	Nertera ...	"	Thrinax ...	"
Carduus ...	"			Nidularium ...	"	Tillandsia ...	"
Carex (grass) ...	"	Fiornia (grass) ...	"	Nymphæa ...	"	Tydaea ...	"
Casuarina ...	"	Fittonia ...	"				
Cattleya ...	"	Fuchsia ...	"	Panax ...	"	Vitex ...	"
Celosisia ...	"			Pandanus ...	"		
Chamædorea ...	"	Geonoma ...	"	Panicum ...	"	Woodsia ...	"
Chamæops ...	"	Geranium ...	"	Pelargonium ...	"	Woodwardia ...	"
Cheilanthes ...	"	Gesneria ...	"	Pennisetum ...	"		
Cineraria ...	"	Goodyera ...	"	Phalænopsis ...	"		
Cissus ...	"	Gymnogramma ...	"			Zamia ...	"

A GENERIC LIST OF PLANTS WHICH PRODUCE BERRIES, ETC.

SUITABLE FOR DINNER-TABLE DECORATION.

Amygdalis ... <i>various.</i>	Cydonia .. <i>various.</i>	Lycesteria ... <i>various.</i>	Rivina <i>various.</i>
Apples .. .	Daphne . . .	Lycopersicum ... "	Rosa... .
Arbutus	Dracena . . .	Mahonia	Ruscus . . .
Ardisia . . .	Erythrina... .	Malus	Sambucus . .
Asparagus . .	Euonymus . . .	Mespilus . . .	Shepherdia .
Aucuba	Fragaria . . .	Mormodica .. .	Skimmia . . .
Berberis . . .	Fuchsia . . .	Morus	Smilax
Cactus	Gaultheria . .	Myrtus	Solanum . . .
Callicarpa . . .	Hedera	Oxycoccus . . .	Sorbus
Calophaca . . .	Illex	Pæonia	Spartum . . .
Caprefolium . .	Iris	Pernettya... ..	Symphoricarpa..
Capsicum... .	Juniperus... .	Physalis	Taxus
Carica	Ligustrum . . .	Prunus	Tomato . . .
Ceanothus . . .	Lonicera .. .	Pyracantha . .	Trochostigma ...
Cerasus		Pyrus	Ulmus
Cornus		Raphiolepis . .	Vaccinium . .
Cotoneaster . .		Ribes	Viscum . . .
Cratægus . . .			Vitis... .
Currant .. .			

GENERIC LIST OF PLANTS WHICH PRODUCE ORNAMENTAL LEAVES, ETC.,

SUITABLE FOR DINNER-TABLE DECORATION.

Abutilon <i>various.</i>	Cobœa <i>various.</i>	Ilex <i>various</i>	Quercus <i>various.</i>
Acalypha "	Coleus "	Iresine "	Rhododendron "
Acanthapex "	Coprosma "	Juniperus "	Rhus "
Acer "	Cornells (Branches) "	Kerria "	Ritinospora "
Adelaster "	Cornus "	Laburnum "	Robinia "
Alocasia "	Cratægus "	Ligustrum "	Rosa "
Alternanthera "	Croton "	Liquidambar "	Sambacus "
Amaranthus "	Cyperus "	Lonocera "	Shepherdia "
Ampelopsis "	Daphne "	Lycopodium "	Solanum "
Ananassa "	Daucus "	Maranta "	Sonerila "
Arabis "	Deeringia "	Mesembryanthemum "	Spiræa "
Aralia "	Dracæna "	Mespilus "	Symphoricarpus "
Armeniaca "	Elæagnus "	Pandanus "	Taxus "
Arundo "	Eranthemum "	Panicum "	Thrinax "
Aspidistra "	Eulalia "	Parottia "	Thuja "
Aucuba "	Euonymus "	Pavetta "	Tradescantia "
Azalea "	Fagus "	Pavia "	Ulmus "
Begonia "	Ferns "	Pelargonium "	Viburnum "
Berberis "	Fraxinus "	Peperomia "	Vinca "
Borecole "	Fuchsia "	Philadelphus "	Vitis "
Buxus "	Gymnocladus "	Photenia "	Weigelia "
Caladium "	Hedera "	Picea "	Zea "
Caltapa "	Hibiscus "	Polemonium "	
Carduus "	Hydrangea "	Populus "	
Castanea "		Pteris "	
Cerasus "		Pyrus "	
Chamæcyparis "			
Cineraria "			

I.

DINNER TABLE.



THE materials with which this Design is to be made may be had through the Autumn and Winter months.

Nos. 1 are intended for Lamps. Nos. 5 are low Glass Dishes, three inches in diameter, to be filled with mixed cut flowers about two inches high. The Wreath round the lamp is composed of *Ampelopsis Veitchii*, and single blooms of White Primula, about three inches apart. The Wreaths round Nos. 5 are of *Lycopodium denticulatum*, each piece being about five inches in length, neatly joined together; and on the top are to be placed single blooms of Red Primula. Nos. 2 are intended for Plants, and a wreath of Golden Variegated Geranium leaves, with a shelled fruit of *Physalis* (Winter Cherry) placed at the stalk end of each leaf. Nos. 4, near the centre lamp, are to have the same wreaths as Nos. 2. The four corner dishes, Nos. 4, are surrounded with leaves of Colen's Duke of Edinburgh, with three berries of the Snow-berry (*Symphoricarpus*) at intervals. These dishes, as well as Nos. 3, are for fruit, but flowers may be substituted, when Nos. 5 could be filled with Fruit and Confectionery.

The *Ampelopsis* may easily be dried in paper for decorations in the early part of the following year.

PLATE I.

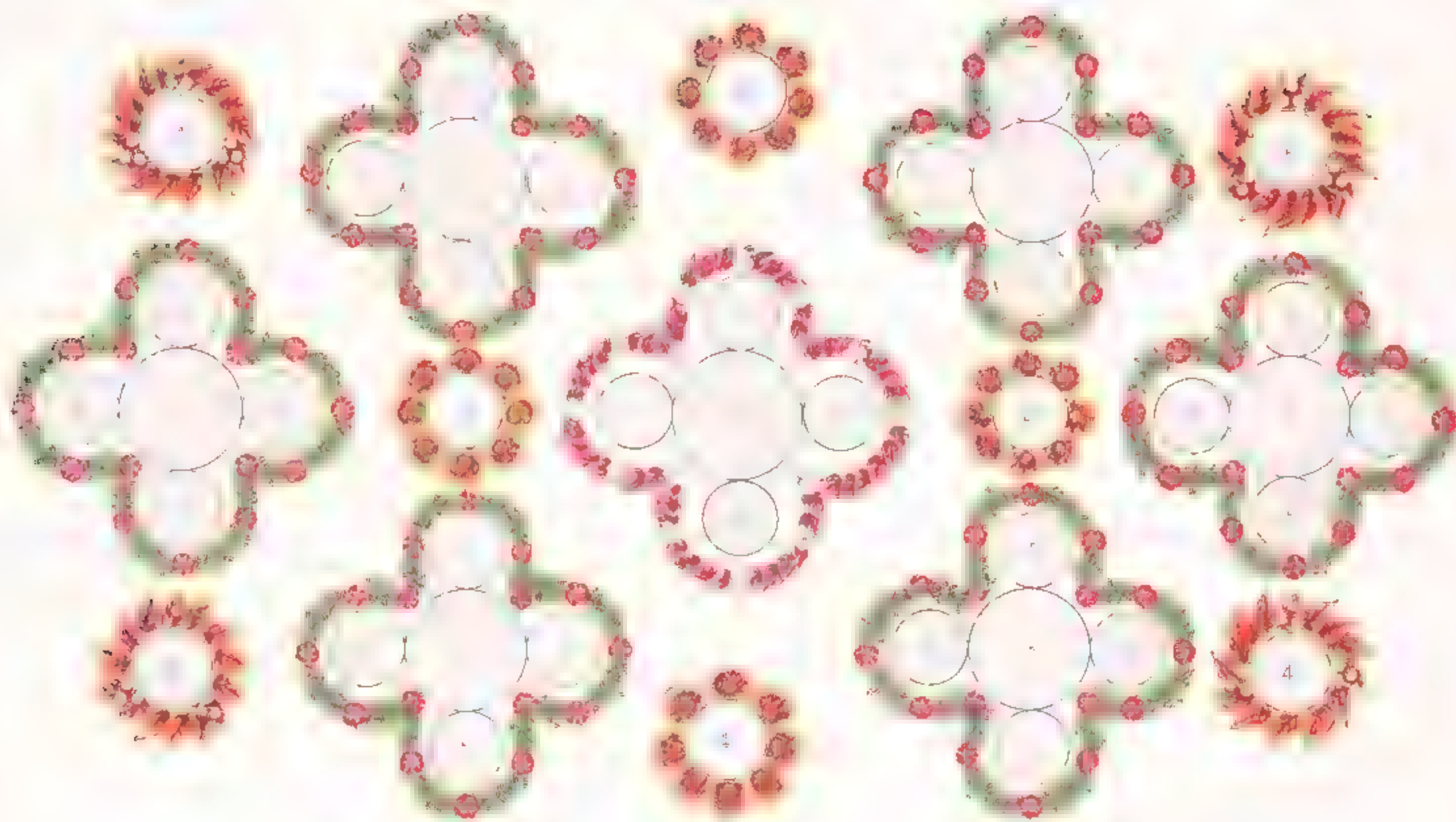
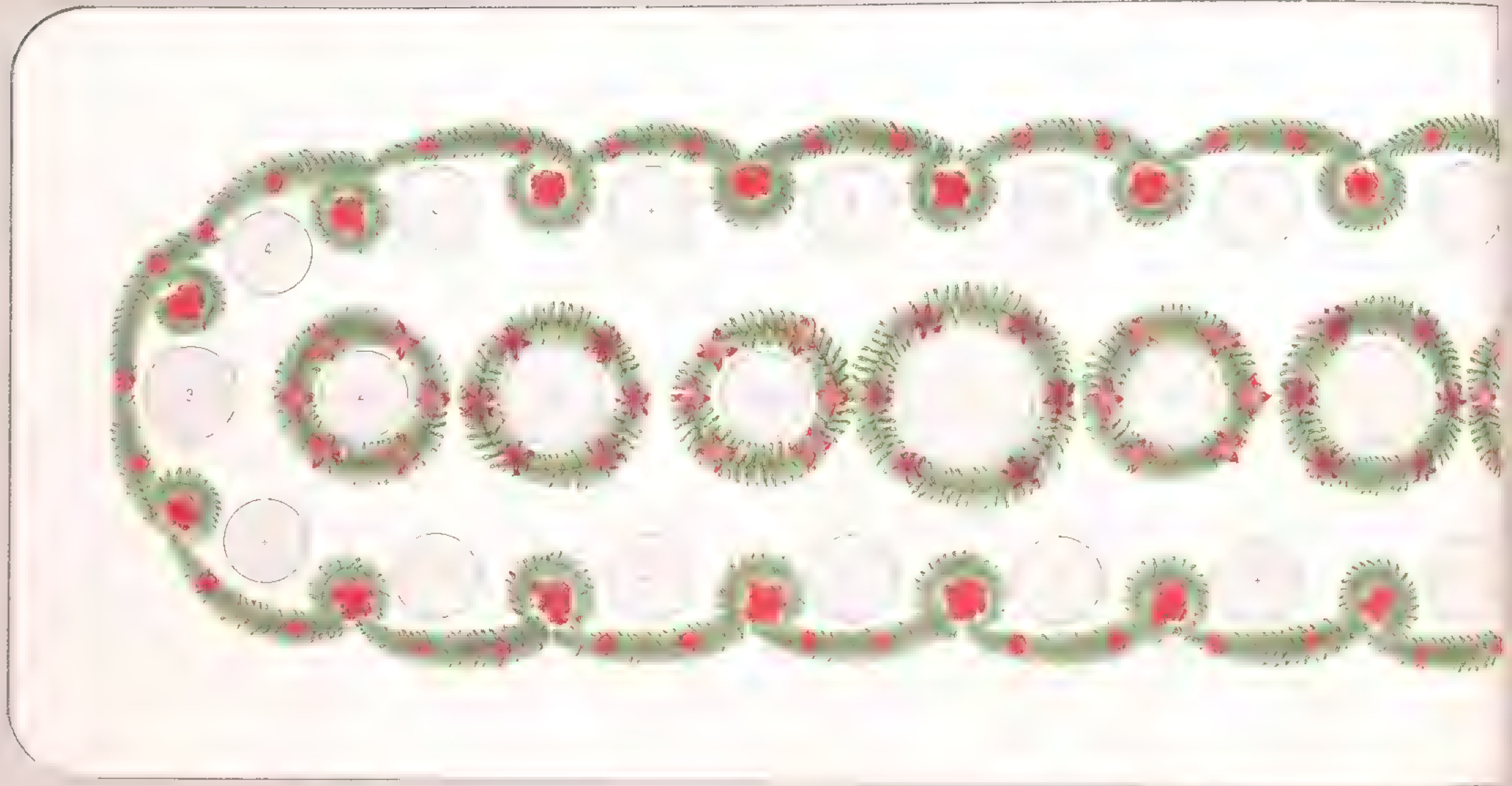






PLATE 2.



DINNER TABLE.



IN the Winter months this decoration is very effective, whilst it can also be quickly made. The Wreaths round Nos. 1 (Lamps) and Nos. 2 (Plants) are to be made with *Nephrolepis exaltata*, cut into convenient lengths, to form the circles, and on the top round Nos. 1 might be placed single blooms of White Chrysanthemums, about three inches apart; and on Wreaths Nos. 2 blooms of *Begonia diversifolia*. The outside Wreath is intended to be made with *Asplenium alatum*, with single blooms of Scarlet Geranium, and a truss of the same in the Fern rings between Nos. 3 and 4. Nos. 3 are supposed to be for Fruit, and Nos. 4 for Confectionery.

A smaller variety of Fern may be used for the rings; *Asplenium marinum*, for instance, would be very suitable and instead of the flowers above mentioned, Spring flowers, such as Tulips, Daisies, Hepaticas, might be used with good effect.

This Design, as well as several of the others, will suit a table of any length.

III.

BREAKFAST TABLE.



THIS is one of the most effective Designs when neatly arranged. No. 1 is an Epergne, with Cut Flowers, at the base of which, and on each side (Nos 3) are wreaths of *Vinca variegata*, with single blooms of *Lobelia distictiva*. Nos. 2 and 3, near the ends, are made of small-leaved ivy, with single blooms of a bright *Cineraria*. The outside wreath is composed of the golden variegated *Vinca*, and single blooms of a bright blue *Cineraria*. Shoots with small leaves of the *Vinca* should be selected, as such lie flatter on the table than those with large leaves. Nos. 7 are constructed of *Myosotis palustris*, or *dissitiflora*, surrounded with *Adiantum cuneatum*. Nos. 6 are spaces for Plants, with borders of *Myosotis*. Nos. 5 are Small Glass Dishes, containing three blooms, and foliage of *Passiflora kermesina*. Nos. 8 are Glass Tubes, 6 inches high, filled with mixed Cut Flowers. Nos. 2, 3, and 4 are Dishes about six inches high, intended for Fruit, and Nos. 3 near each end are meant for mixed Cut Flowers.

PLATE 3.

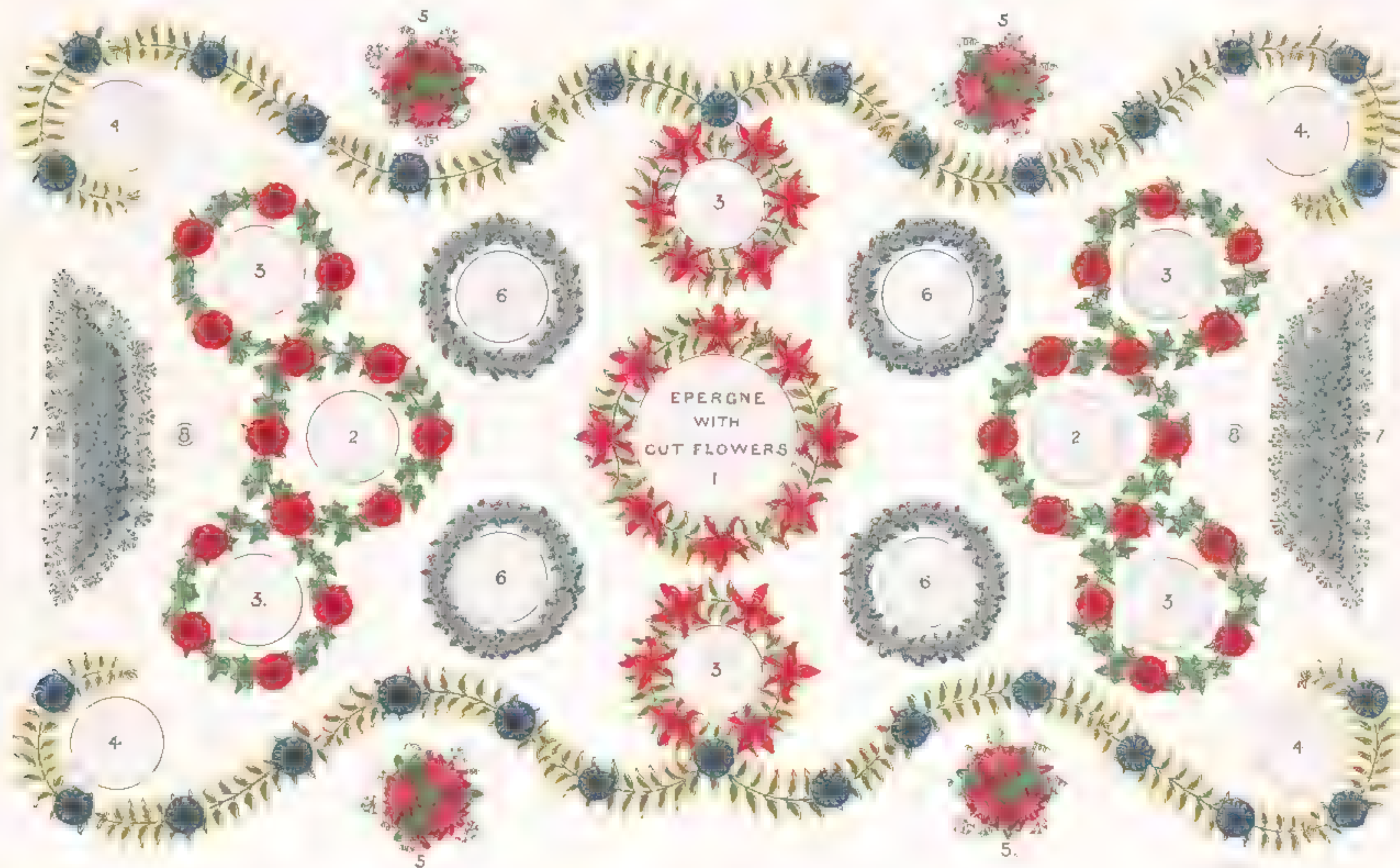






PLATE 4



IV.

LUNCHEON TABLE.



THE wreaths in this Design are made with the common Dog Rose, which grows so abundantly in the hedgerows in most districts. This Rose makes a very elegant and inexpensive wreath, which can be laid on the table in a very few minutes. The pieces should be cut about three or four inches long, selecting such as have blossoms standing well out from among the foliage. No. 1 is intended for a vase of Cut Flowers, mixed; Nos. 2 are Plants; Nos. 3 are for Fruit; and Nos. 4 are Fruit and Flowers combined. A host of other beautiful flowers, as well as the Dog Rose, may be found in most country lanes, many of which will vie for this purpose with those cut from hothouses and greenhouses. Great care should be taken that this, and all the other wreaths in these Designs, are not laid on the table too heavily.

LUNCHEON OR DINNER TABLE.



HIS decoration consists chiefly of Roses and Thistles. Here we have the emblem of England centrally placed on the emblem of Scotland—nice, clean, healthy plants of the Thistle, of which, fortunately or unfortunately, plenty may be found in all country places, of all heights, shapes, and sizes. Plants eight or ten inches in diameter would be a good size for the purpose; these to be placed in round, low glass dishes, and a good bright Rose placed in the centre of each. No. 1 is a Vase of Mixed Flowers; Nos. 2 are Plants; Nos. 3, Fruit; Nos. 4, Confectionery; Nos. 5 are Flowers and Fruit combined; Nos. 6 are Glass Tubes four inches high; and Nos. 7, Glass Tubes eight inches high. All the tubes are to be filled with wild flowers, plenty of which may be found in all country places by the wayside, and are as much, if not more, admired by the Peer as the peasant.

PLATE 5.







PLATE 6.



MYRTLE.

(5)

DEJZA
GRACILIS

(5)

ORANGE TREE
IN BLOSSOM

(5)

GARDENIA
WHITE.

THE

WHITE

VI.

WEDDING BREAKFAST TABLE.



On point of importance, the WEDDING BREAKFAST TABLE DESIGN should have been placed first. It is hardly necessary to say that the Bride Cake should occupy the most prominent position. Nos. 2 are places for Plants. We would suggest two Orange-trees in bloom, two Gardenias, two Deutzias, and two Myrtles, all White Flowering Plants of suitable character. Nos. 3 are for Fruits, prettily arranged, Nos. 4 for Confectionery. Nos. 5 represent Glass Tubes, eight inches high, filled with *Eucharis Amazonica*, surrounded with Maidenhair Fern. Nos. 6 are Glass Tubes, four inches high, to be filled with White Roses, Camellias, *Stephanotis floribunda*, and *Lily of the Valley*, if in season. Each tube is to be surrounded with *Fragrostis elegans* (Love-grass). The lower part of the wreath is to be formed with broad-leaf Myrtle, and the upper part, or knots, are to be made with the small-leaf Myrtle. Upon this wreath may be placed, about four inches apart, pure white Cyclamen blooms, pips of White Hyacinth, &c. &c.

As interesting events, such as Weddings, are likely to take place at all seasons of the year, it is advisable that Gardeners should have a good Stock of white flowering plants always in store.

DINNER TABLE.



THE wreaths in this Design are intended to be formed with *Selaginella Japonica*, with single blooms of a good Scarlet Geranium, three or four inches apart, and single Clematis blooms (Star of India) for the two parts. The small S-shaped wreaths are composed of *Selaginella denticulata variegata*. There are also a number of Glass Tubes, near the outside of table, four inches high, filled with Cut Flowers.

Nos. 1 indicate the positions of the Lamps. Nos. 2 are Plants; Nos. 3, Fruits; Nos. 4, Confectionery. There are Glass Tubes, eight inches high, also filled with Cut Flowers, down the centre of the table; and Dishes Nos. 3 and 4 round No. 1 are intended to be filled with either Fruit or Flowers.

PLATE 7.

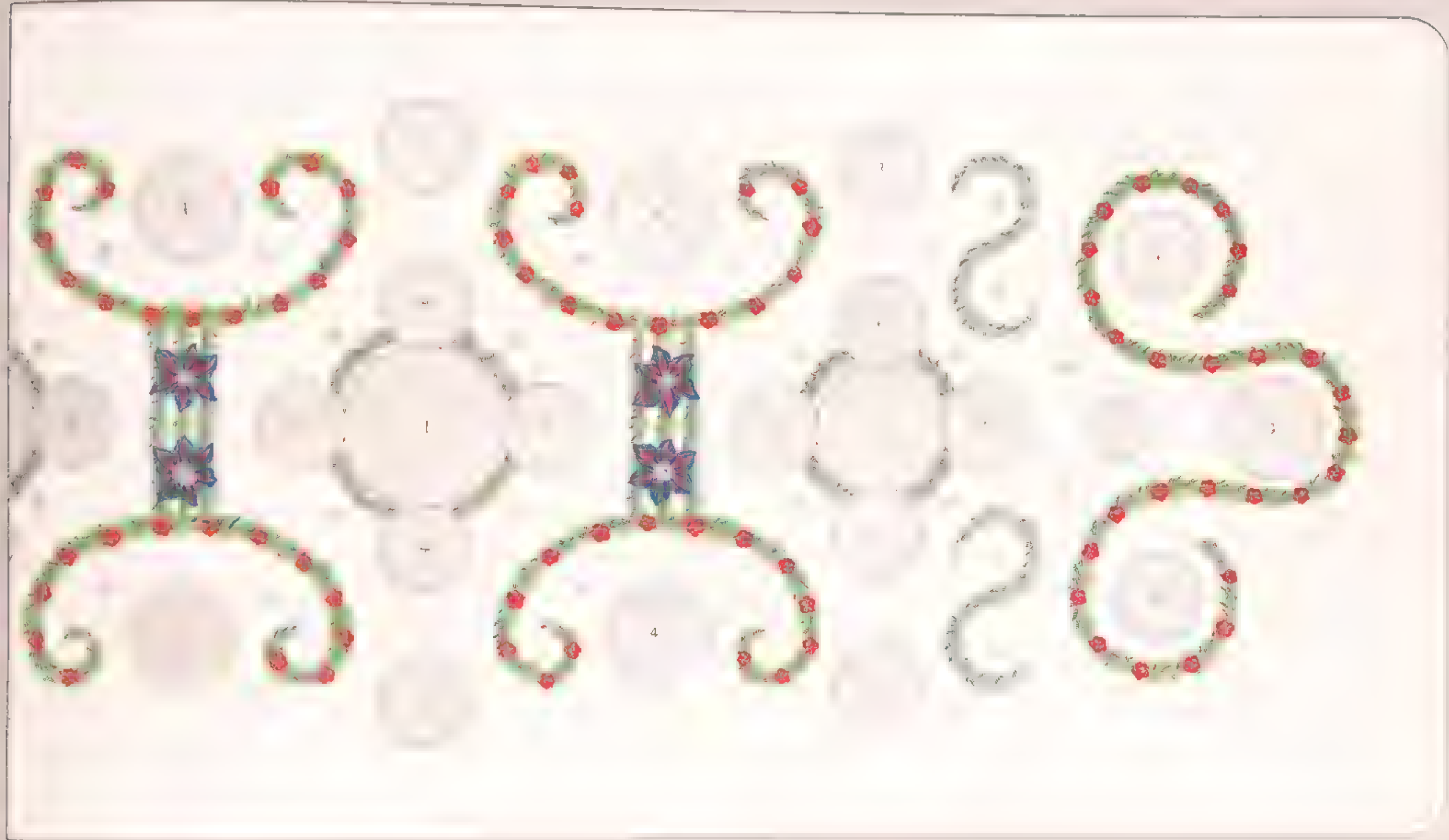
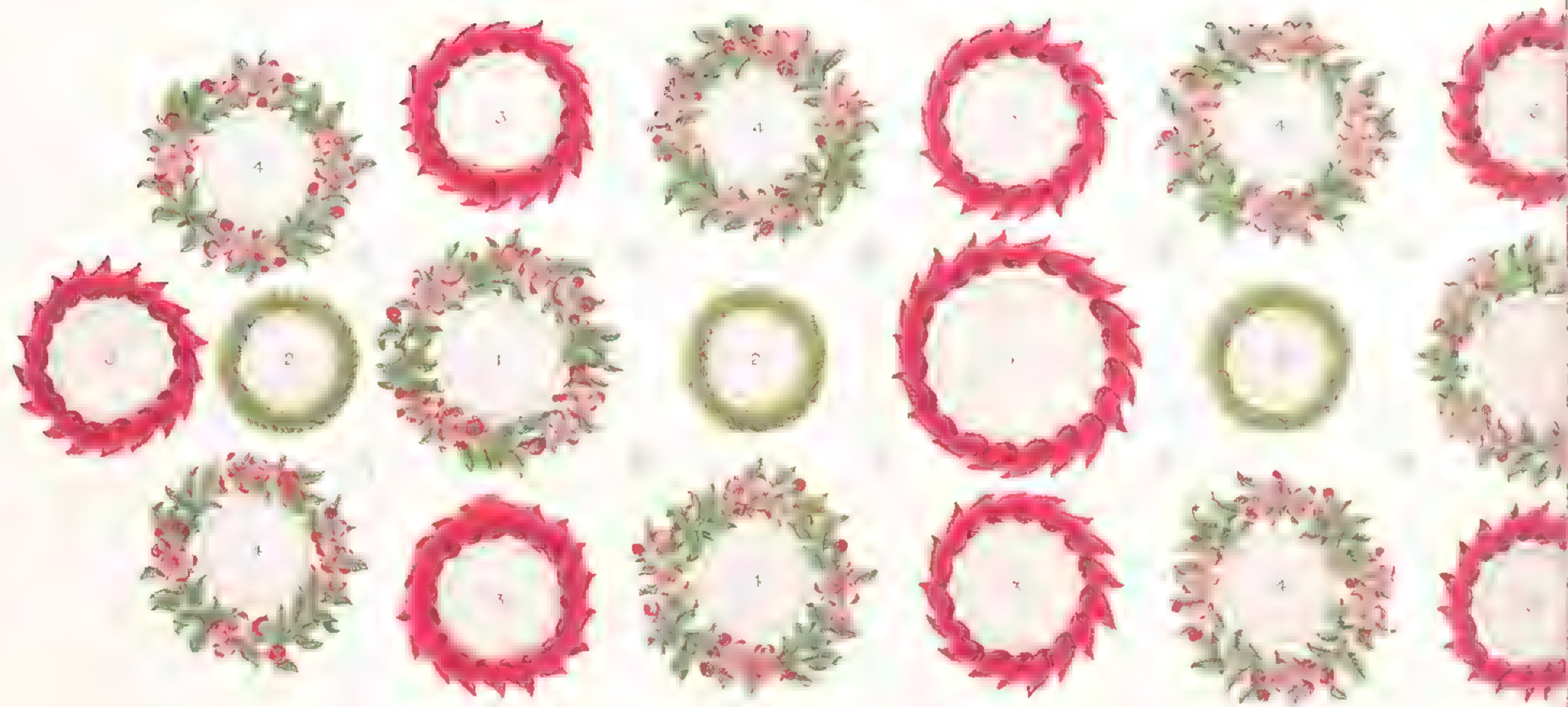






PLATE 8



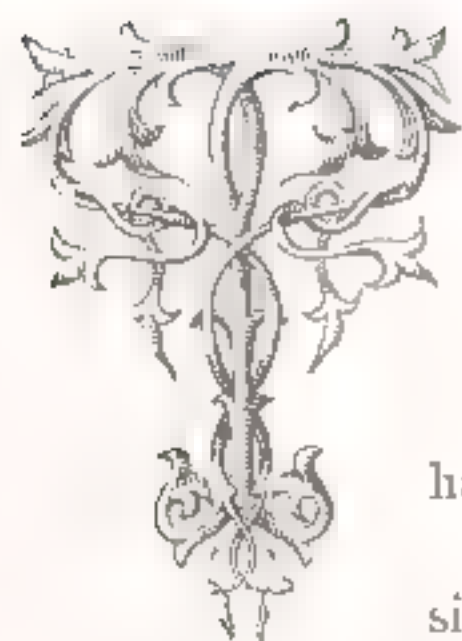
VIII.

DINNER TABLE.

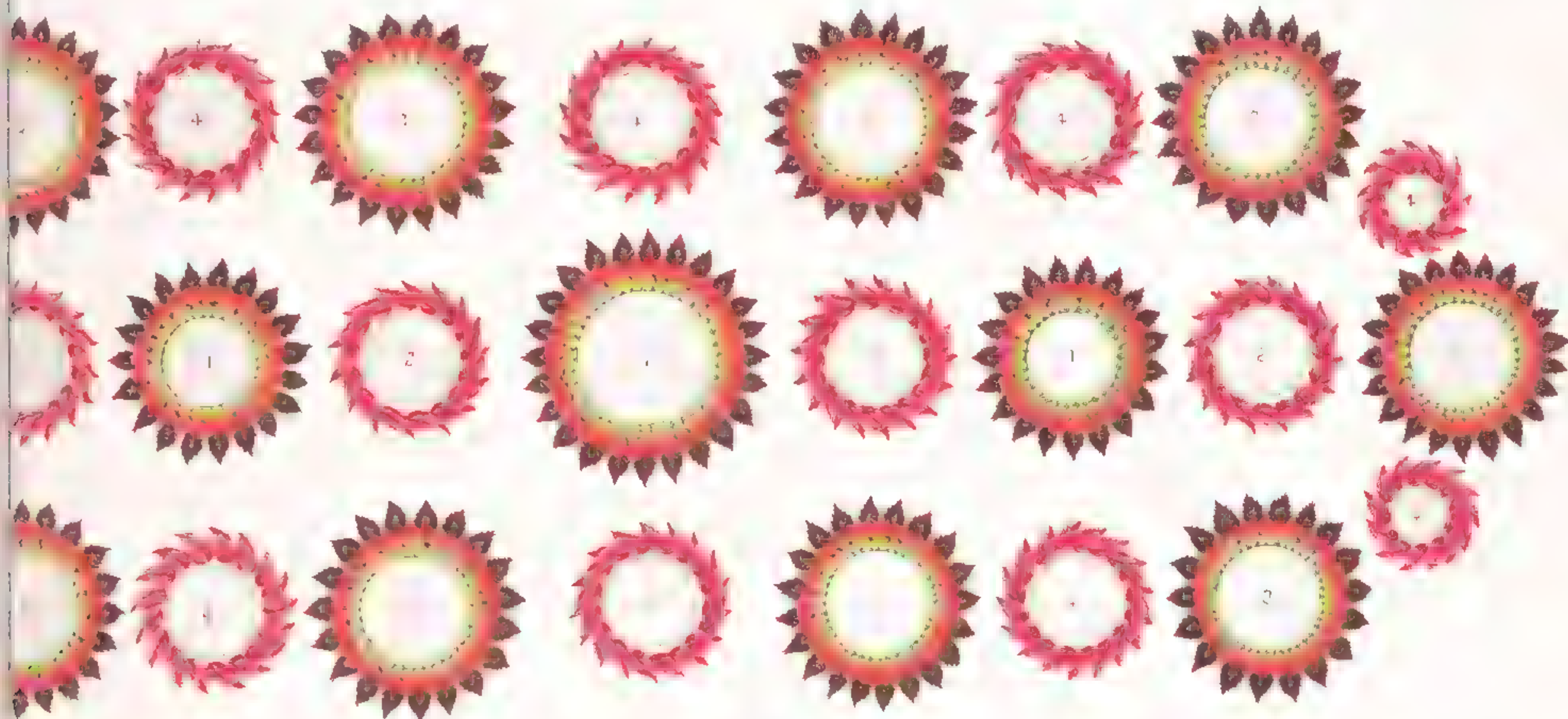


EATLY arranged, this Table is very effective. Nos. 1 and 4 are surrounded with Apple Blossoms (or Crab Blossoms, which are equally good for the purpose). Spaces Nos. 2 are intended for plants surrounded with a wreath of the pretty *Selaginella laevigata*. Nos. 1 and 3 are bordered with a bright-leaved *Coleus*, of which there are now many varieties. The *Coleus* leaves should be laid with the point of each leaf turning outwards. Of course this design, like several of the others, may be carried on to any length of table. Nos. 1 indicate Lamps; Nos. 3, Fruits; and Nos. 4 are intended for Confectionery.

CRICKET LUNCHEON TABLE.



HIS decoration is composed of the Zingari colours, viz., Black, Red, and Gold; and was used on the occasion of an entertainment of the Zingari Cricketers. Round Nos. 1 and 3 are Leaves of the Perilla or a dark-leaf Coleus; with Geranium and Yellow Calceolaria for the inside. Nos. 2 and 4 have borders of a red-leaf Coleus. A very good substitute is to have low round dishes placed each side the centre, and also between Nos. 3 and 4, all round the table, and instead of using the Perilla or Coleus Leaves, to use the tops—four or five inches long—of *Iresine Lindenii*. Nos. 1 are Vases of Flowers; Nos. 2, Gold or Silver Cups; Nos. 3, Fruit; and Nos. 4 are small round pans or glasses of *Sonerila Hendersonii* and *S. Margaritacea* alternately.



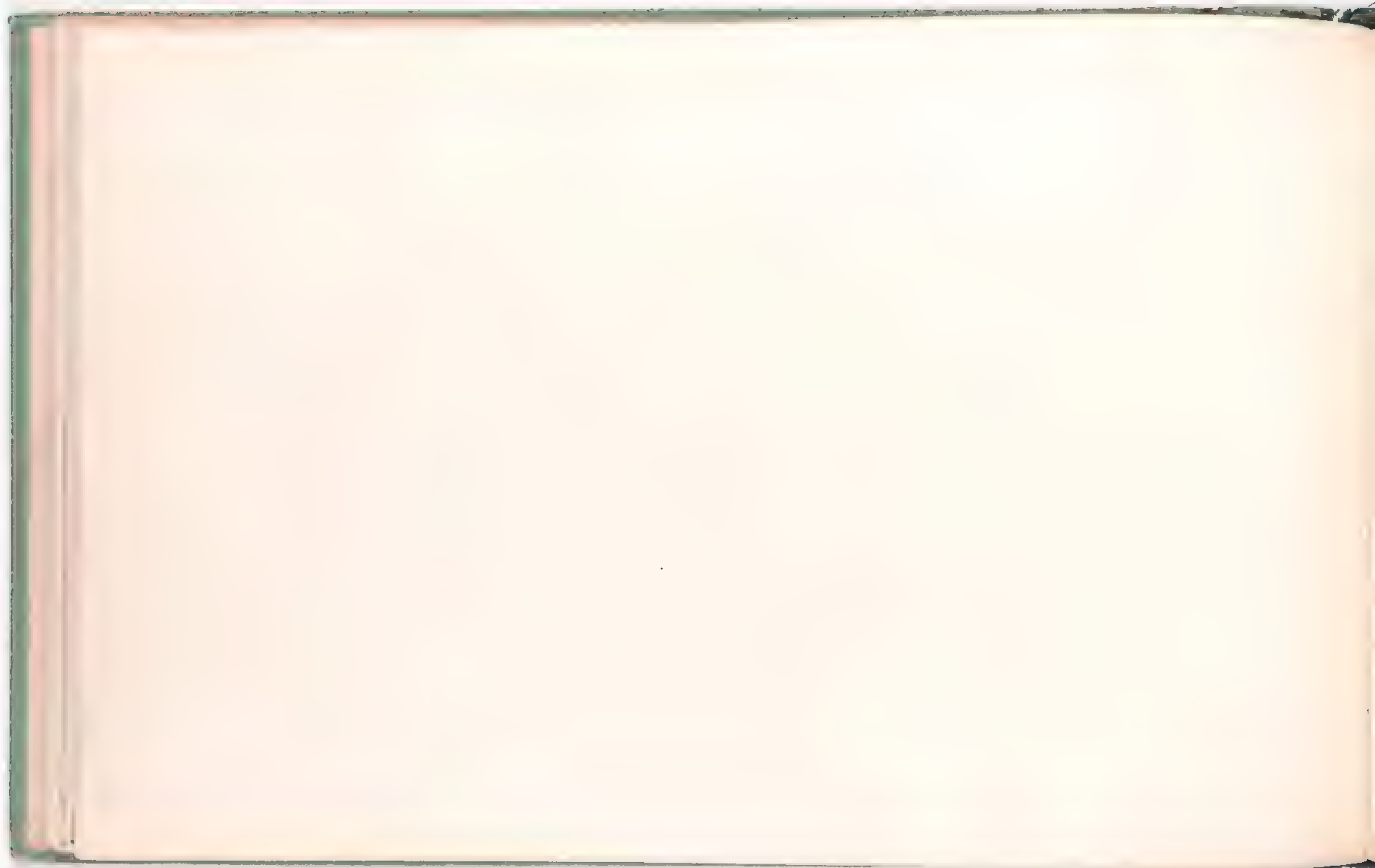
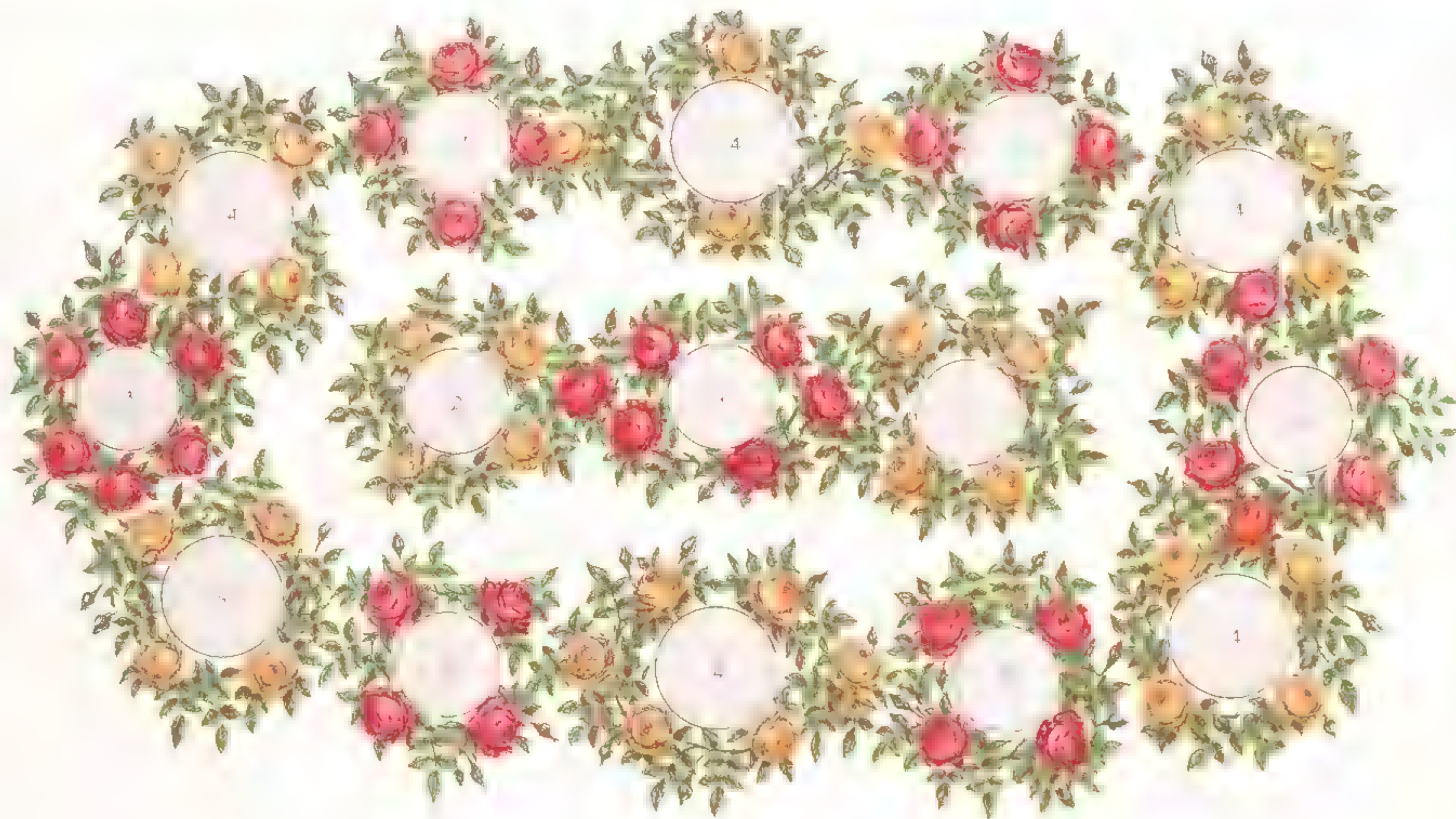




PLATE 10.



X.

BREAKFAST OR DINNER TABLE.



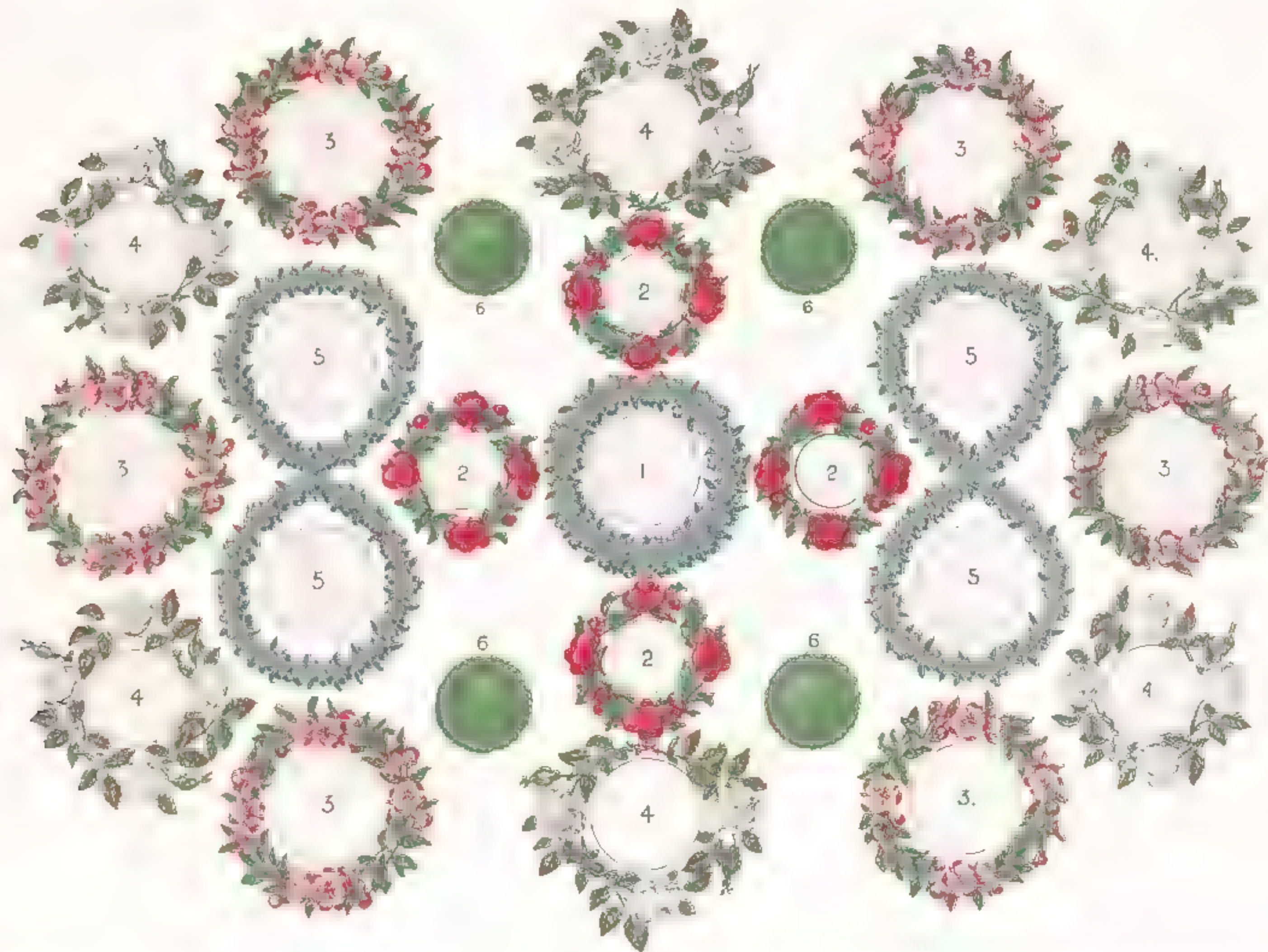
DINNER TABLE decorated entirely with the Queen of Flowers is here given. To carry out this Design Rose shoots should be cut about four inches in length, and be bent into the required shapes; the roses should then be placed on the top, with buds at appropriate intervals. The Maréchal Niel Rose is a capital one for a Yellow bloom; and as there are so many varieties of Red and Pink Roses, all of which are beautiful and admirably adapted for the Dinner Table, it is needless to specially indicate them. Many persons may prefer to have their Roses placed in water; in either case, a few buds properly intermingled will greatly enhance the beauty of this decoration. No. 1 is intended to be occupied by a Plant; Nos. 2 are Lamps; Nos. 3, Fruit; and Nos. 4 are to be devoted to Confectionery.

BREAKFAST OR LUNCHEON TABLE.



If the materials are not laid on too profusely, and with ordinary care, this Table has a very pretty effect. The Wreaths round Nos. 1 and 5 are of *Myosotis* (Forget-Me-Not). Dishes Nos. 2 are surrounded with the scarlet-flowering *Cratægus*; Nos. 3 with borders of Apple-Blossom; and White Roses are placed round Nos. 4. Nos. 1 and 5 are places for plants; and Nos. 2 are Low Dishes to be filled with Mixed Cut Flowers prettily arranged. Nos. 6 are of the *Lycopodium apoda*: this should be grown in Saucers for the purpose. Nos. 4 are intended for Fruit; and Nos. 3 to contain Mixed Cut Flowers.

PLATE II.



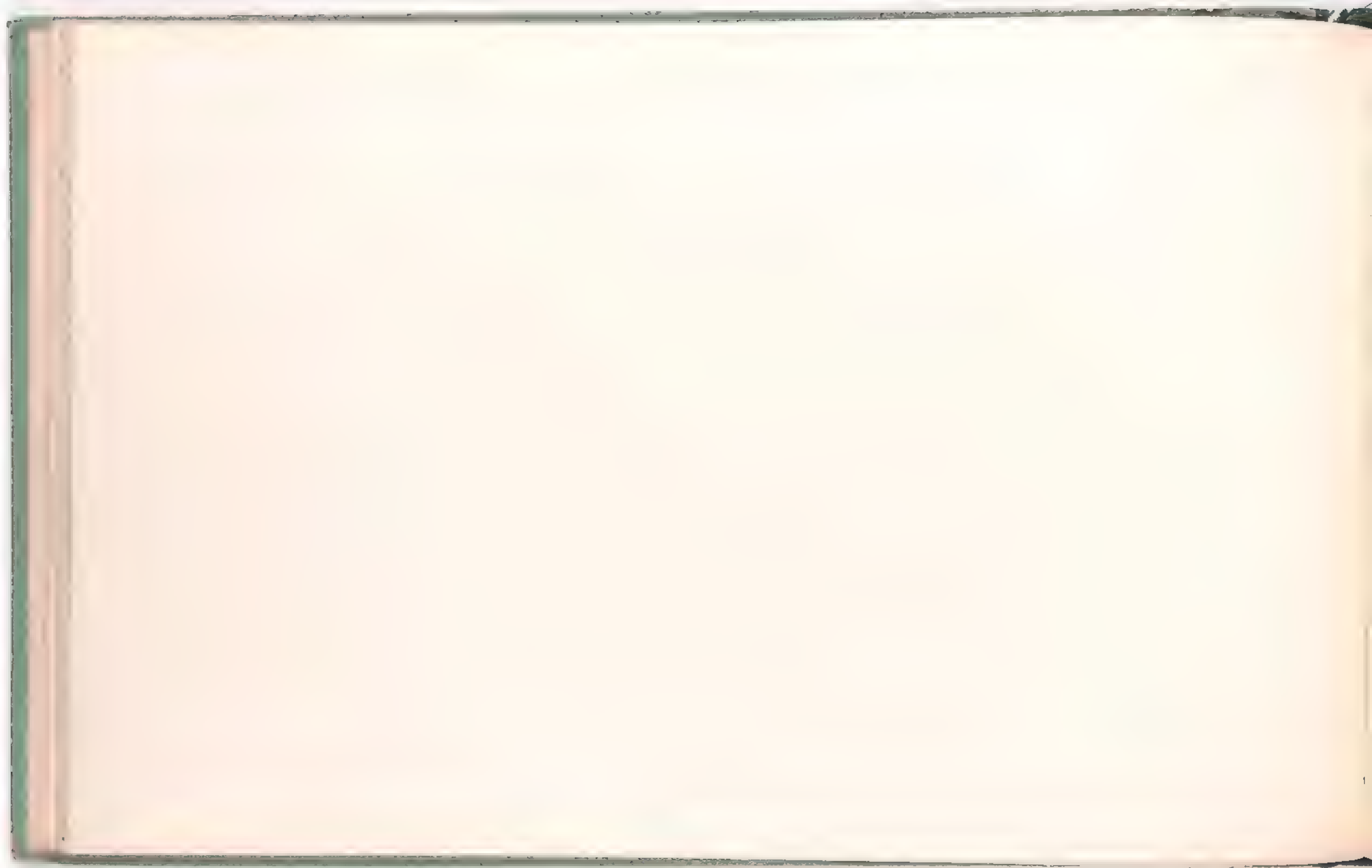




PLATE 12.



XII.

BREAKFAST OR LUNCHEON TABLE.



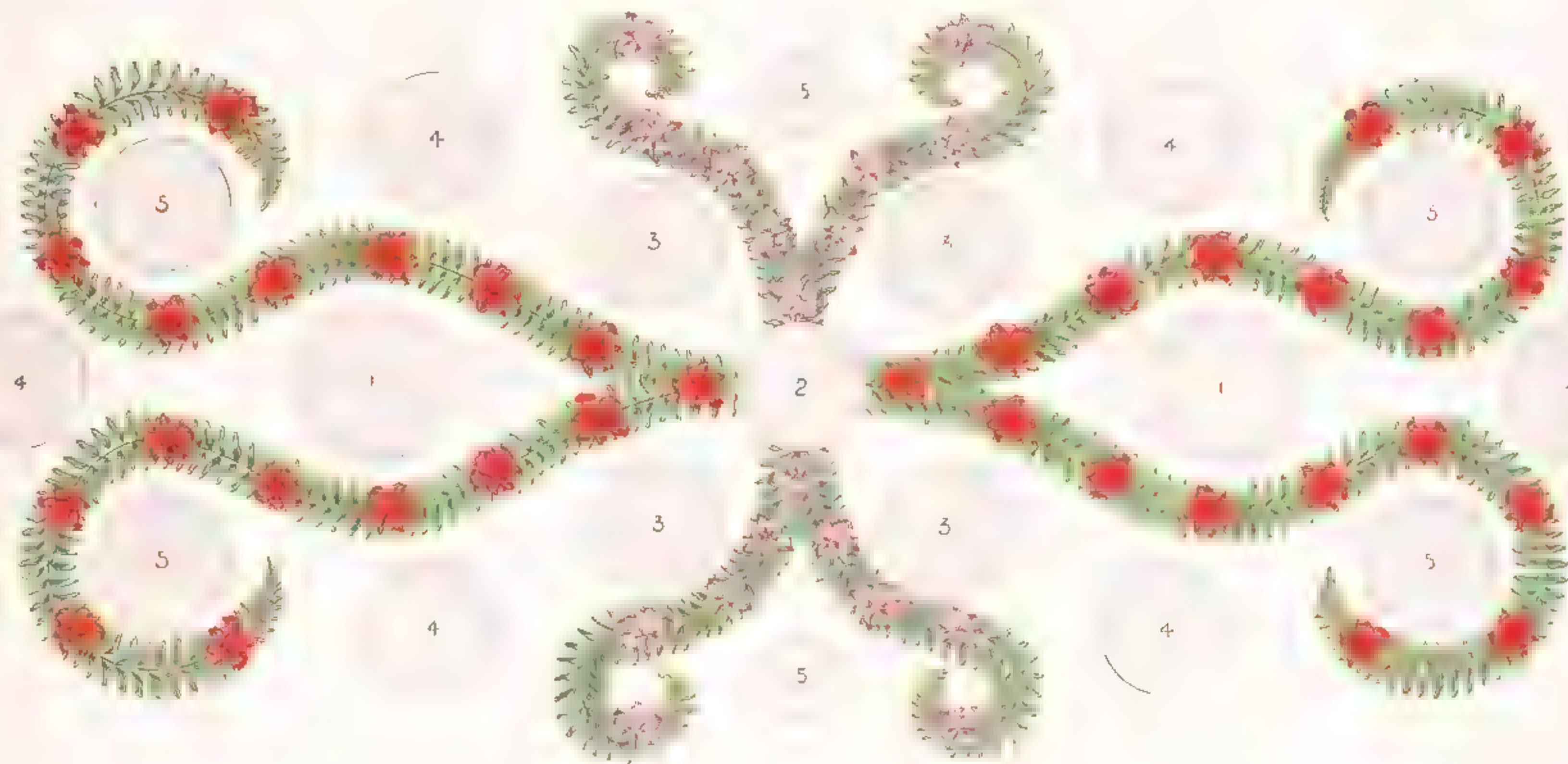
THIS Decoration, which is simple and effective, is entirely composed of the Leaves of the Mrs. Pollock Geranium; which are only just lapped one on to the other; care being taken that the leafstalk is cut completely off, or the leaves will not lie regularly. The brightest-coloured leaves should be selected, and they should as near as possible be all of one size, and should of course be washed thoroughly clean. No. 1 may be either an Epergne filled with flowers or a plant. Nos. 2 indicate Glass Tubes filled with Cut Flowers. Nos. 3 are for Fruit; and Nos. 4 for Dishes of Roses tastefully arranged.

XIII

DINNER TABLE.

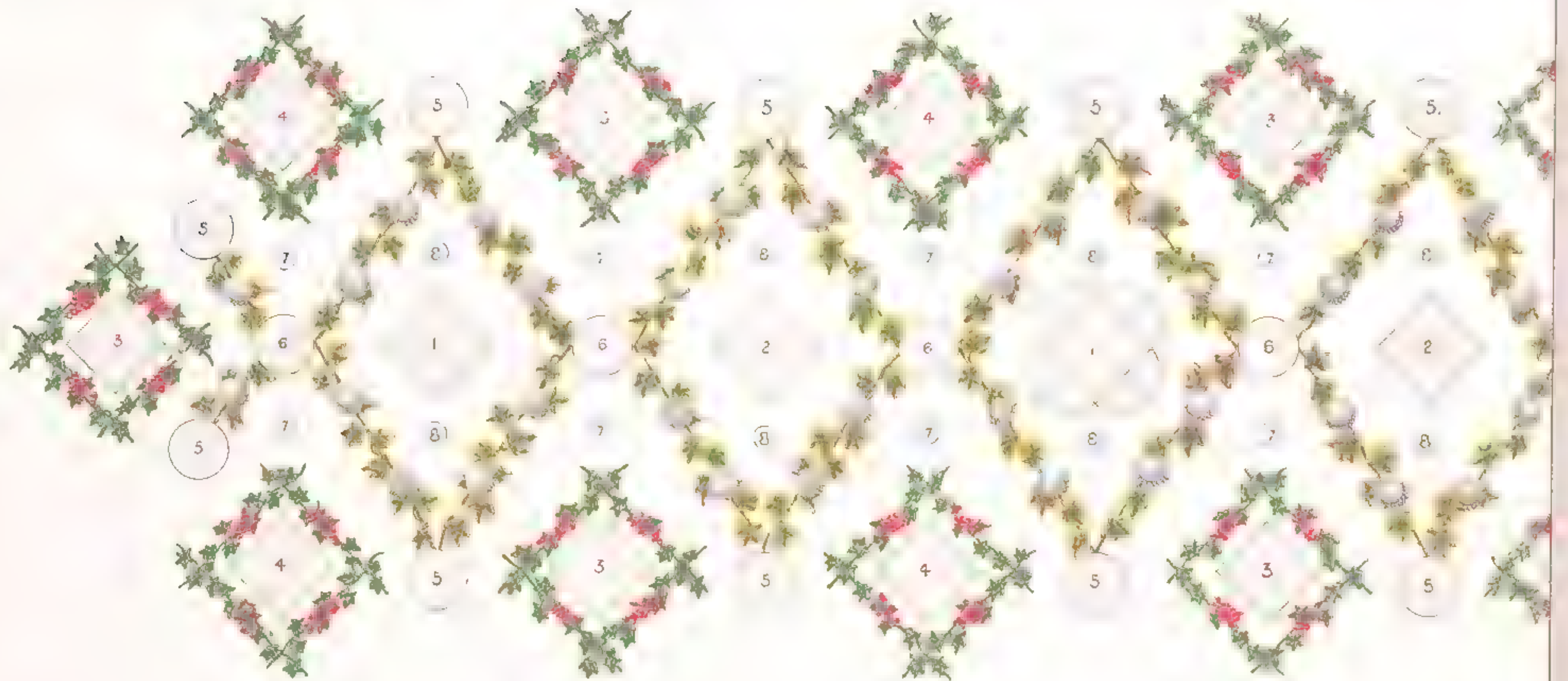


PERHAPS the Wreath in this Design is one of the easiest to arrange ; the two ends are made with the *Asplenium marinum* and single blooms of *Gladiolus* (Le Vésuve) at intervals of about four inches. The two centre wreaths or scrolls are composed of the same fern, and a lighter-coloured *Gladiolus* (Mrs. Reynolds Hole) placed the same distance apart as at the two ends. Nos. 1 are Lamps ; No. 2 may be a Large Gold Cup ; Nos. 3 are for Plants ; Nos. 4 are Fruit ; and Nos. 5, Confectionery. The Fern fronds to be used in this Design should be immersed for a few minutes in water—say an hour or so before being required for use.









DINNER TABLE.



THIS Decoration is also very easy to execute. The Inside Wreaths are made with the Golden Variegated Ivy, with good White Chrysanthemum, with Lions placed two, three or even four inches apart. As will be seen in the Design, the Ivy Shoots are laid quite straight. The Outside Wreaths are composed of a small-leaved Ivy, from trees, placed as shown; and small bunches of Smilax Mauritanica, placed at intervals on the top of them. Nos. 1 are Lamps; Nos. 2, Plants; Nos. 3 are for Fruit; Nos. 4, Confectionery; Nos. 5 are Small Glass Dishes filled with Cut Flowers; Nos. 6 are intended for Small Vases, with a single panicle of *Gyncrium argenteum* (Pampas Grass); Nos. 7 are Glass Tubes, eight inches high, filled with Cut Flowers, and Nos. 8 are Glass Tubes of the same height, each filled with about forty pieces of *Agrostis pulchella* (dried), and two or three pieces of Maiden-hair Fern.

HARVEST HOME DINNER OR SUPPER.



IN this Design is shown the Harvest Home Dinner or Supper Table, decorated with nicely-selected pieces of Wheat, Barley, Oats, &c., intermixed, and on the top are placed at intervals small bunches of Grapes, Figs, Plums, Pears, Apples, Red and Yellow Tomatoes, Queen Anne's Pocket Melon, Fruit of the Egg plant, &c. &c. Nos. 1 are Lamps; Nos. 2, Plants; Nos. 3 are Fruits; Nos. 4, Confectionery; and Nos. 5 are Low Glass Dishes filled with Mixed Flowers. The Outside Wreath is made with the old-fashioned Fuchsia coccinea, bearing its own flowers.

PLATE 15



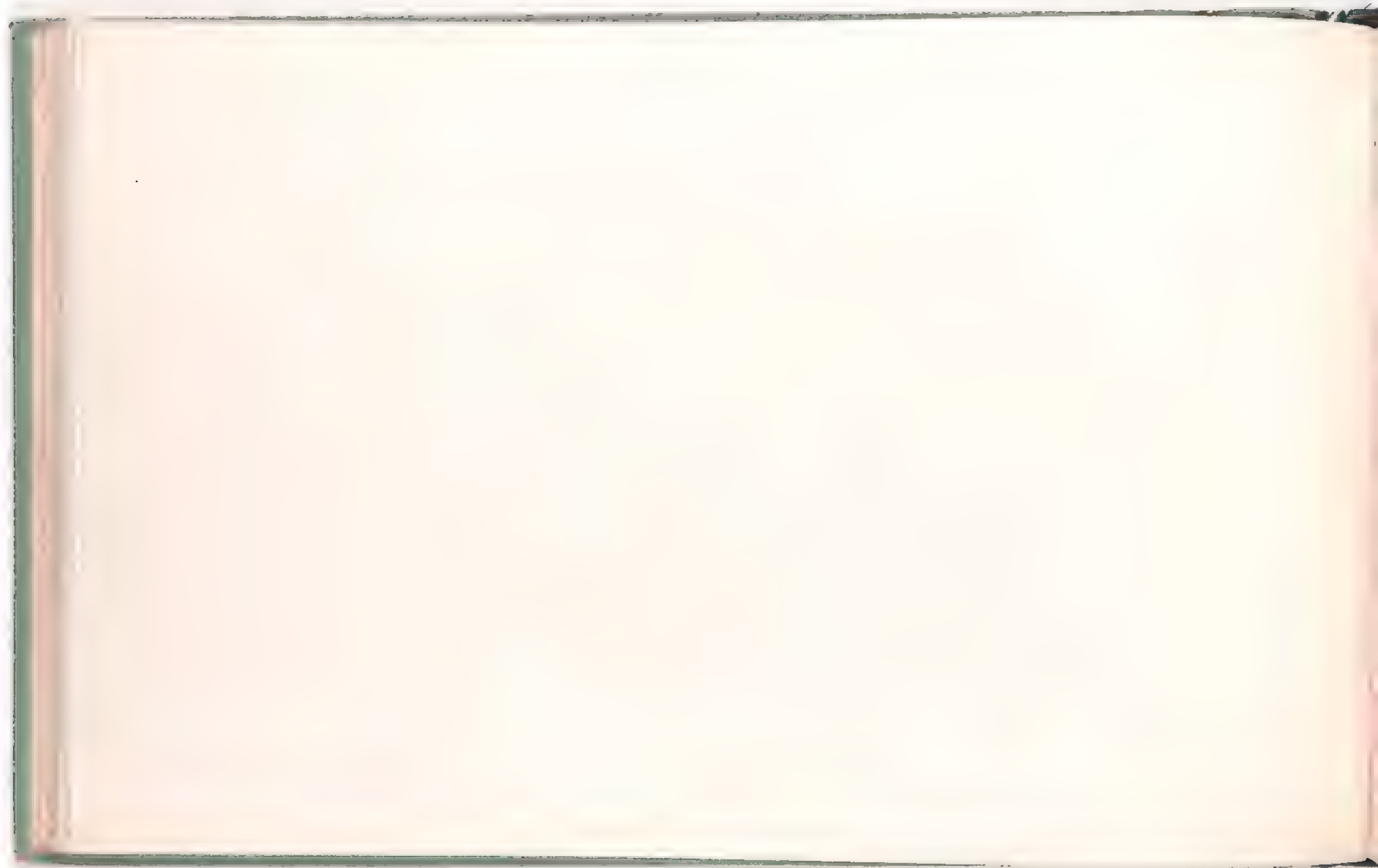
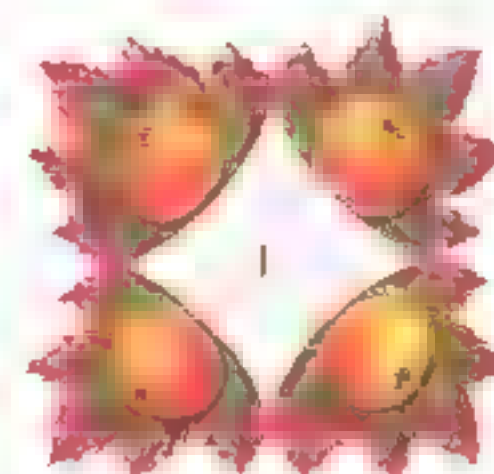
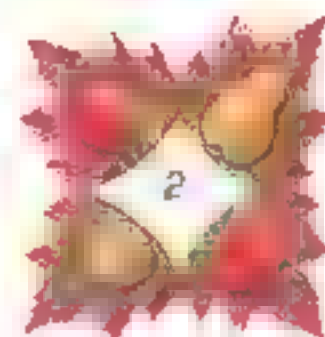
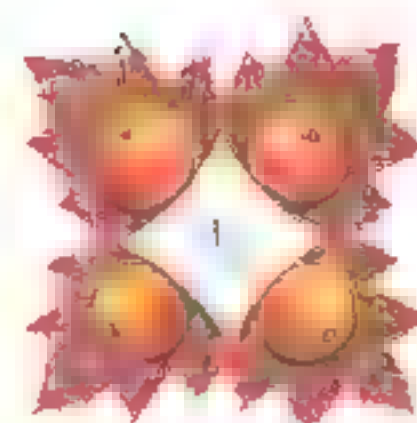




PLATE 16.



XVI.

DINNER TABLE.



HIS Design, when done with clean and proper-sized Leaves, has a very rich effect—in fact, a truly royal appearance. The Leaves are to be selected from the Grape Vine Barbarossa. The largest sized ones should be chosen for the Centre of the Table. The leaves must be sponged very clean, which adds much to their brilliancy as well as cleanliness on the table. Four leaves are required to each Lamp, Plant, and Dish. Various kinds of fruit may be used; such as small Bunches of Grapes, Apples, Pears, Red and Yellow Tomatoes, Plums, Striped Figs (*Col di Signora Bianca panachée*), Fruit of the Egg-plant, the fruit to be placed at the Stalk end of each leaf. Nos. 1 are Lamps; Nos. 2 Plants; Nos. 3, Fruits; and Nos. 4 are for Confectionery. The *Ampelopsis hederacea* may be substituted for the Vine-leaves when in season.

BREAKFAST OR DINNER TABLE.



NUMBER SEVENTEEN is a pretty Decoration for a Small Table. The Centre, No. 1, is intended to be a Vase of Flowers, with Six Fern Fronds, *Adiantum Farleyense*, and a Fairy Apple at the stalk end of each Frond. Nos. 2 are Small Plants of *Pteris serrulata*; Nos. 3, Fruit. Nos. 4 are Glass Dishes filled with Cut Flowers. Wreaths of Bright *Coleus* Leaves are to be placed round Nos. 3, and wreaths of *Lycopodium denticulatum variegatum* round Nos. 4, with shelled Fruit of the *Physalis* (Winter Cherry) placed upon them at intervals of about three inches. The *Physalis* is one of the very best berry bearing plants for a gardener to grow for decorative purposes, as the fruit is in season from September till the following March

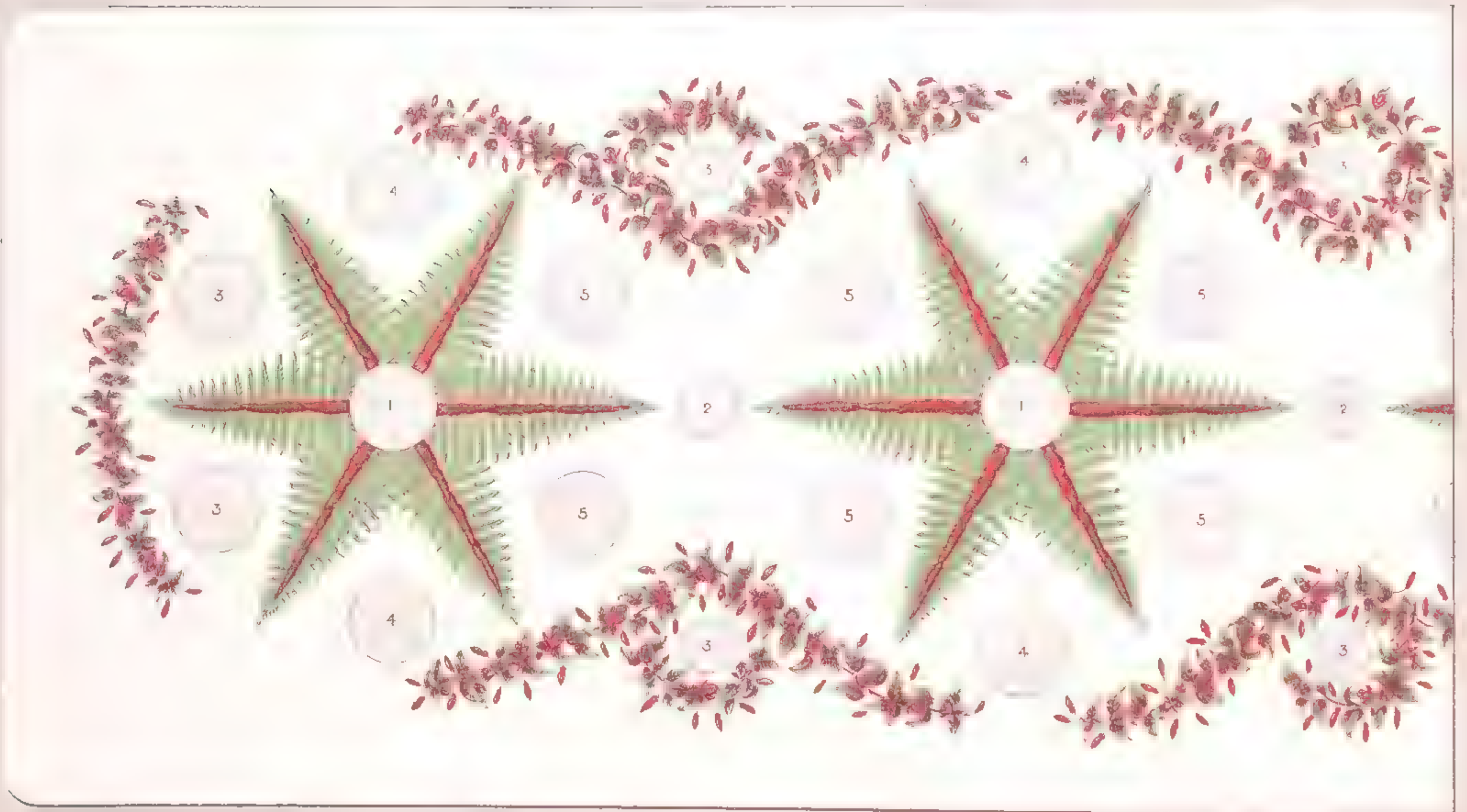
PLATE 17.







PLATE 18



XVIII.

DINNER TABLE.



HIS Design, when carefully worked out and displayed under a good light, is very effective. Round each Lamp, Nos. 1, are placed Six Fern Fronds, *Pteris aquilina*, or any similar Fern, with a straight piece of *Amaranthus caudatus* (Love-lies-bleeding) down the centre of each frond. Nos. 2 may be Gold or Silver Cups; Nos. 3 are intended for Fruit; Nos. 4, Confectionery; and Nos. 5 indicate Plants. The Outside Wreaths are composed of Fuchsia (Sunray), and flowers of the same, placed upright, about four inches apart. In this, as in all the other Designs, when the lamps are suspended from the ceiling, Plants or Cut Flowers may take their place on the Table.

XIX.

HUNT BREAKFAST TABLE.



INGULARLY appropriate for the decoration of a Hunt Breakfast Table, this Design speaks for itself. The main Wreath is made with the *Nephrolepis exaltata*, and *Physalis* (Winter Cherry), placed as shown in the Plate. No. 1, *Platycerium alcicorne* (Stag's Horn Fern); Nos. 2, *Davalia Canariensis* (Hare's Foot Fern); Nos. 3, Vases of *Digitalis* (Foxgloves). These should be grown in pots for the purpose, so as to come in at the time required. Nos. 4 are Fruit. Nos. 5 are to have neat borders of the beautiful *Ampelopsis Veitchii*, with Glass Dishes of Cut Flowers inside. Nos. 6 are *Ampelopsis hederacea*, with a glass tube of flowers in the centre of each.

PLATE 19.







PLATE 20.



XX

DINNER TABLE.



THE "Welcome" Design is very appropriate for the decoration of the First Evening's Entertainment. Lycopodium denticulatum is to be used for the inside wreath and also for the letters: it should be rather thicker towards the centre, and be surmounted by bright-coloured Roses arranged as shown; and single blooms of Scarlet Geraniums are to be placed where indicated, on the letters. Nos. 1 are Lamps; Nos. 2, Plants; Nos. 3, Confectionery; and Nos. 4 are intended for Fruit. The Lycopodium should be well cleaned, and pieces should be selected as much as possible free from roots.

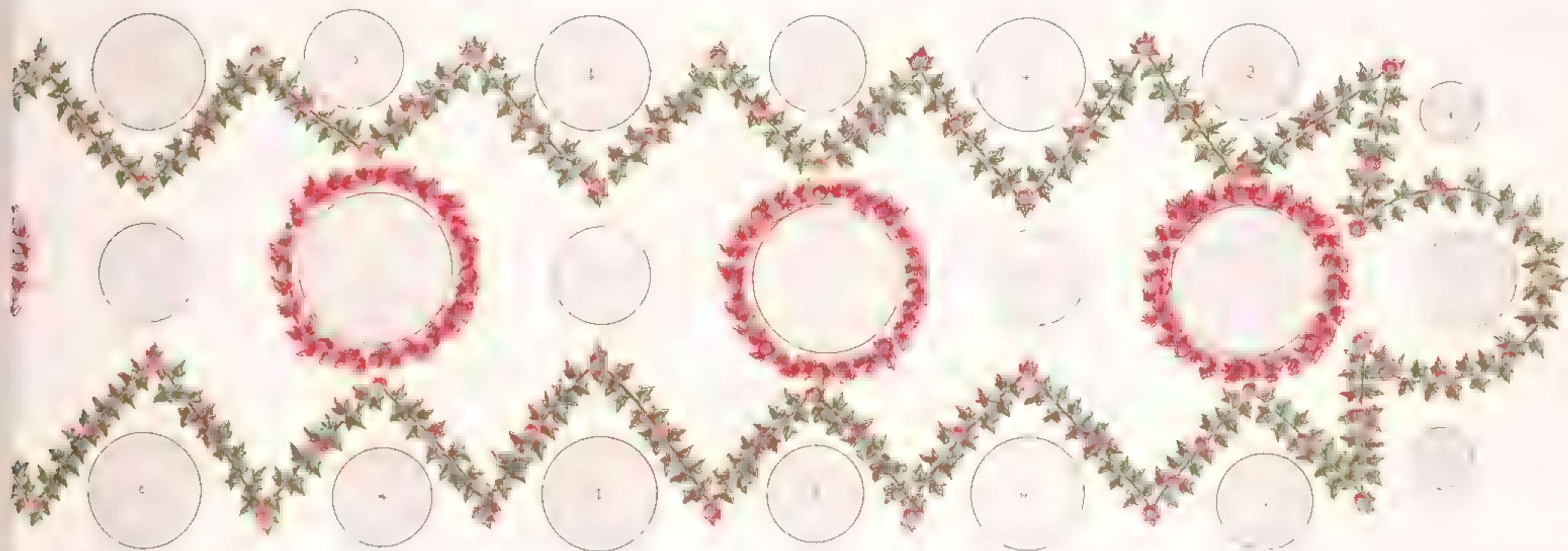
XXI.

DINNER TABLE.



THIS Design is perhaps one of the easiest of the series to carry out, and is very effective when neatly executed. The Inside Wreath round Nos. 1 (Lamps) is made with *Ampelopsis Veitchii*, with shelled fruit of the Winter Cherry (*Physalis*), placed at intervals of about three inches. The Outside Wreath is to be made with Small-leaved Ivy Shoots cut into proper lengths, and on the top should be placed, three or four inches apart, varieties of the *Helichrysum* (dried), including the beautiful *Rhodanthe Manglesii* fl. pleno, &c. &c. Nos. 2 are Plants; Nos. 3, Fruit; and Nos. 4, Confectionery.

PLATE 21



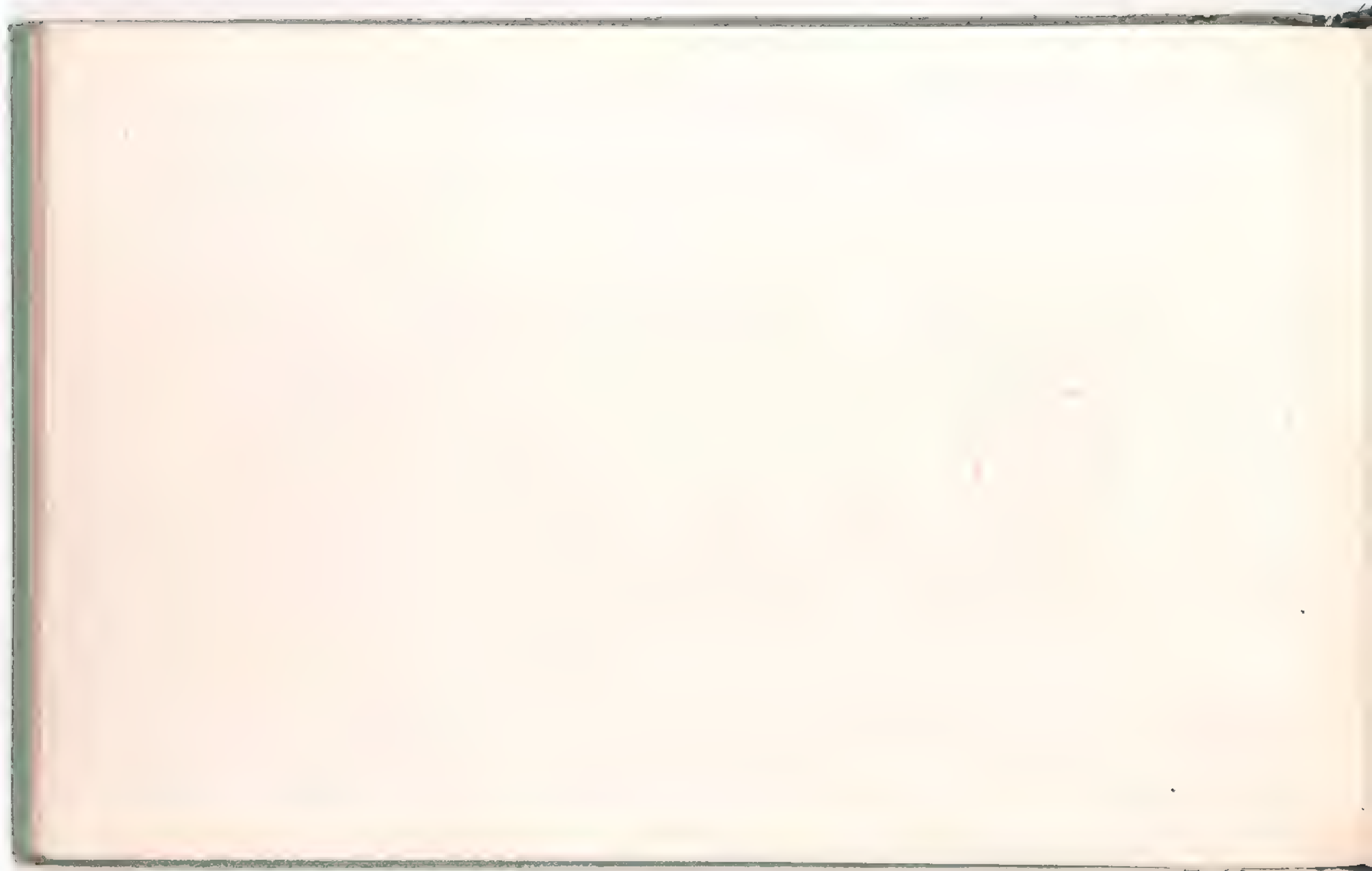
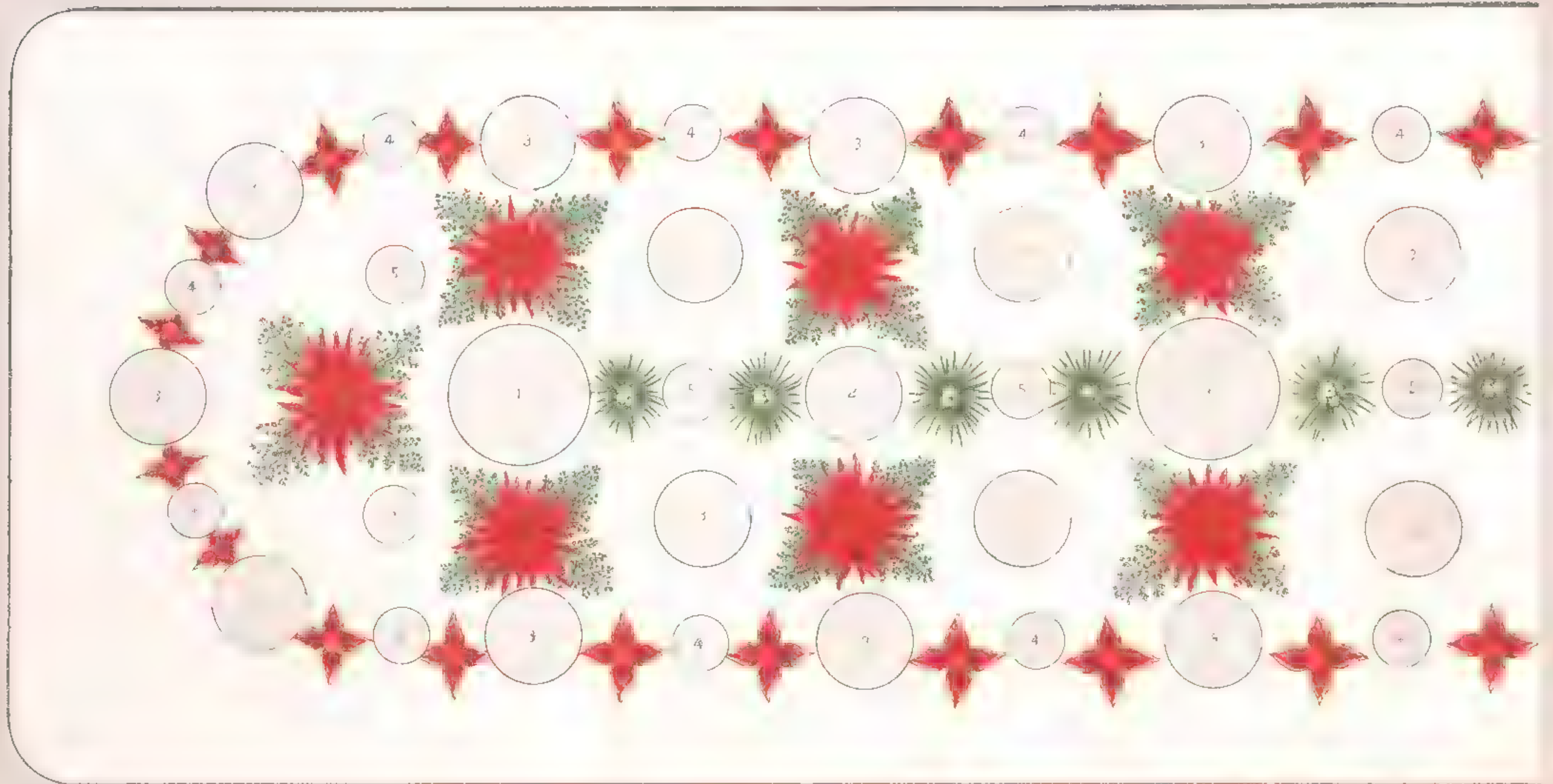




PLATE 22



DINNER TABLE.



NO richer Table Decoration than this can be made. At the ends, and opposite Nos. 1 (Lamps), and Nos. 2 (Plants), are alternately placed Fronds of the *Adiantum cuneatum* and *A. Farleyense*; on the top of which is to be laid one head of the *Poinsettea pulcherrima*, or better still, *P. plenissima*. Down the Centre of the Table are the *Cyperus alternifolius* and *C. alternifolius variegatus* placed alternately, on the centre of each a truss of White Primula. Nos. 5 may be Gold or Silver Cups. Between Nos. 3 and 4 are placed four bright *Coleus* Leaves, and on the centre, as shown, fine Rosy Apples are to be placed. Nos. 3 are intended for Fruit; and Nos. 4 for Confectionery. Suitable plants for this, as well as the other designs, may be selected from the foregoing List.

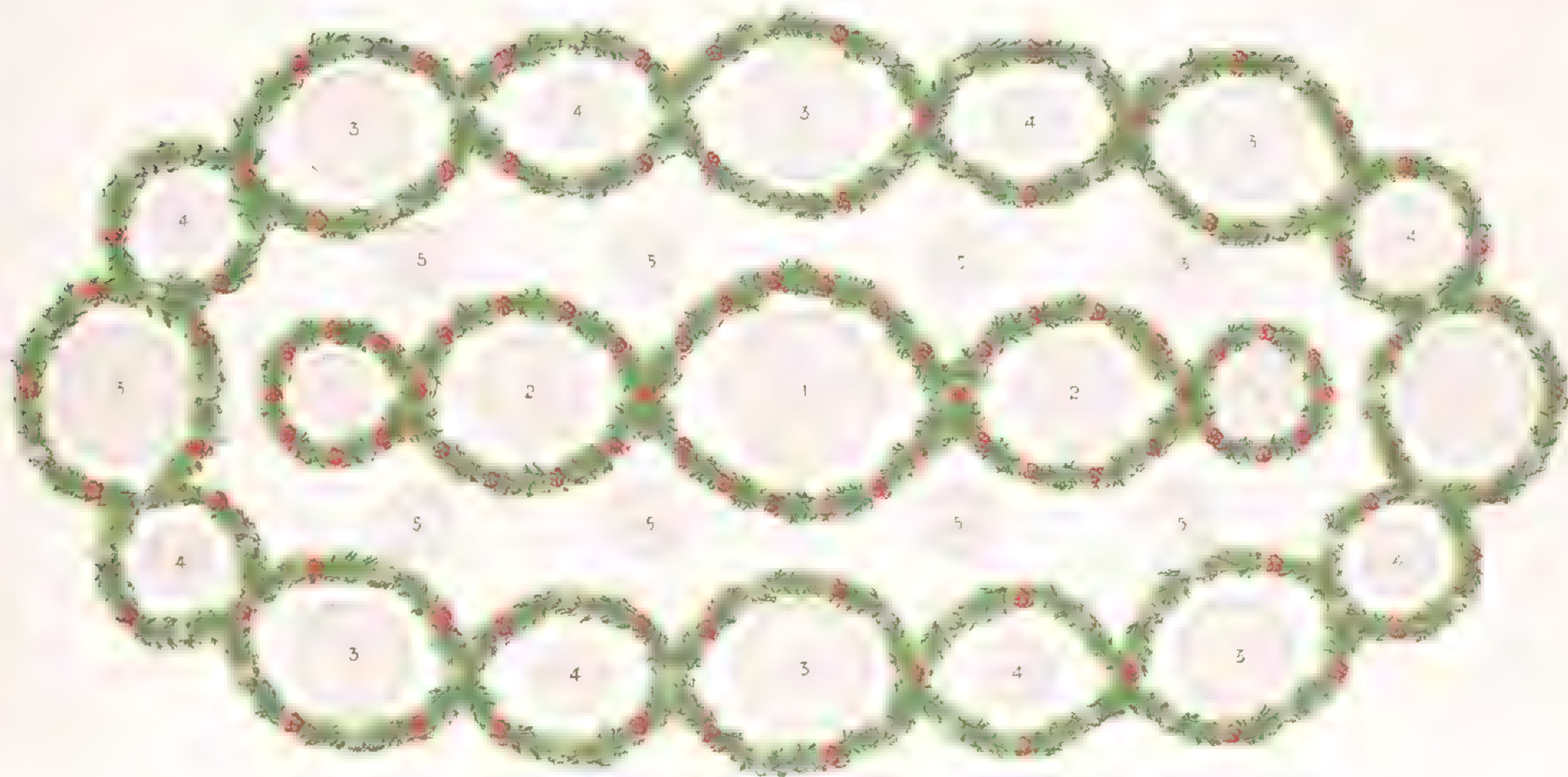
XXIII.

DINNER TABLE.



OMY considerable time is required to carry out this Design satisfactorily. It is principally composed of Selaginella involucens with single blooms of a good Red Primula four inches apart on the top, and White Primula between them. Great care should be taken that the Selaginella is not laid on too profusely, or the effect will not be so good. Nos. 1 are intended for Lamps; Nos. 2, Plants; Nos. 3, Fruits; Nos. 4, Confectionery; and Nos. 5 indicate Glass Dishes to be filled with Mixed Cut Flowers. The proper sorts of Glass Dishes for all these designs are supplied by the principal glass dealers throughout the country.

PLATE 23.



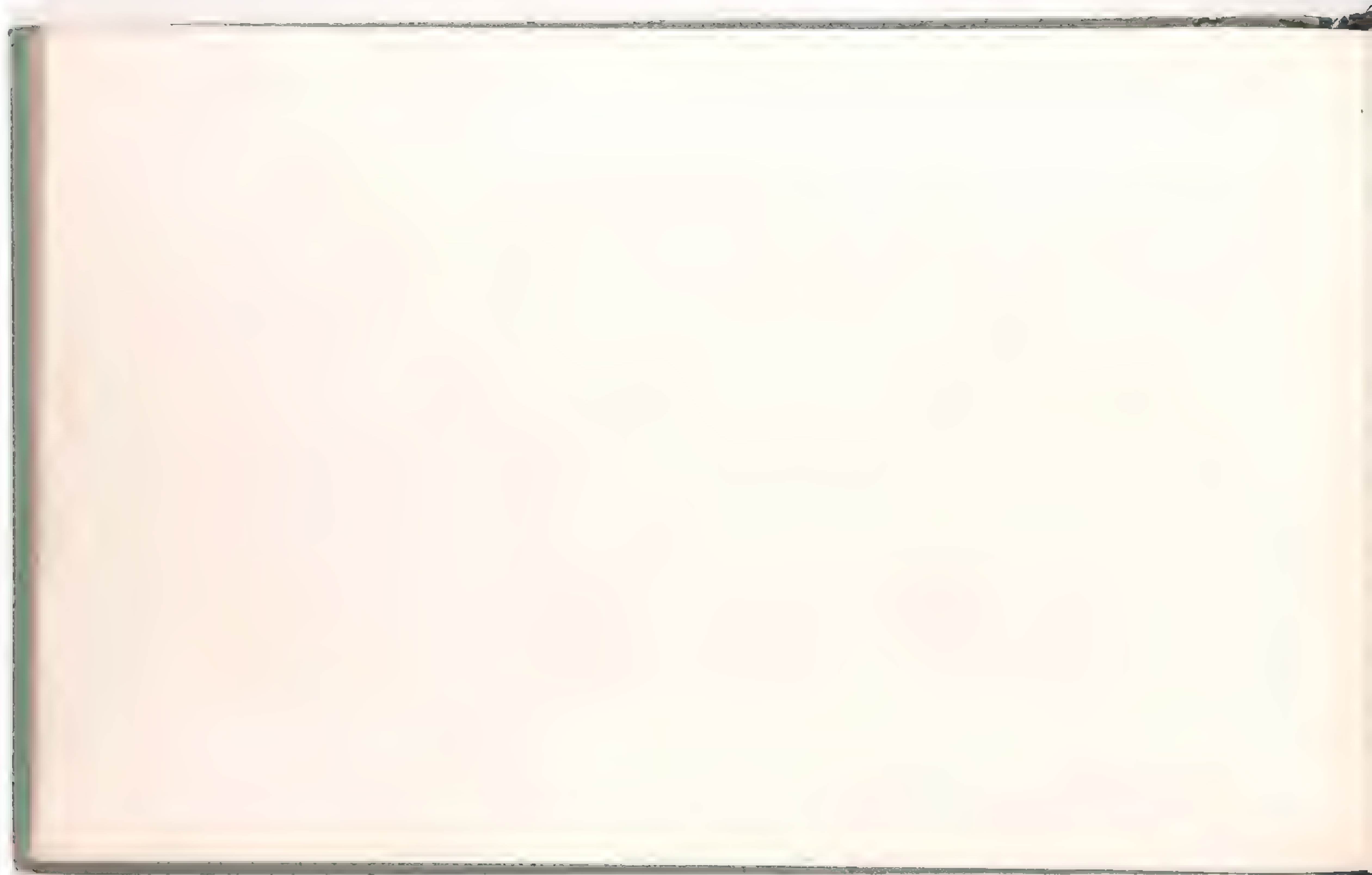
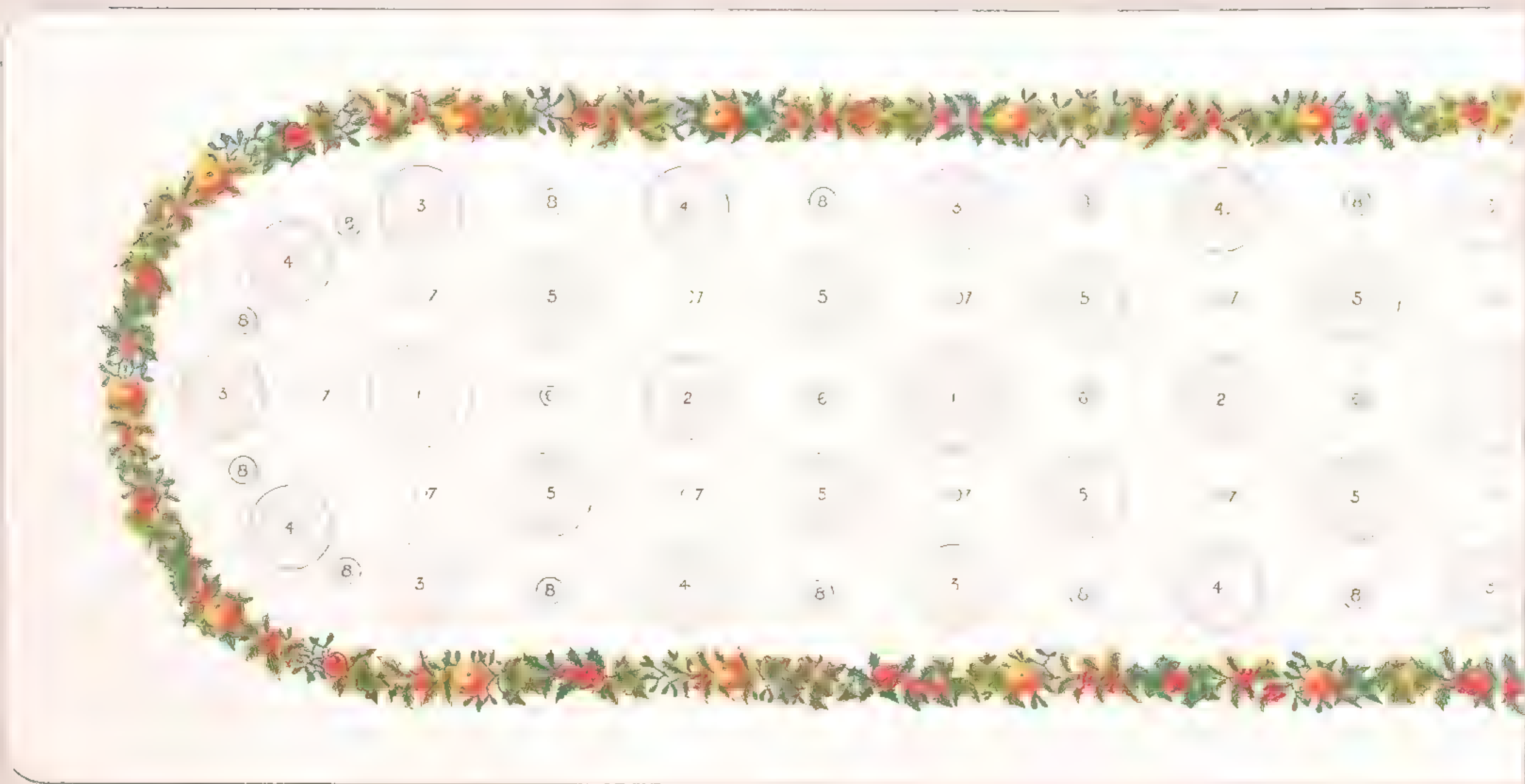


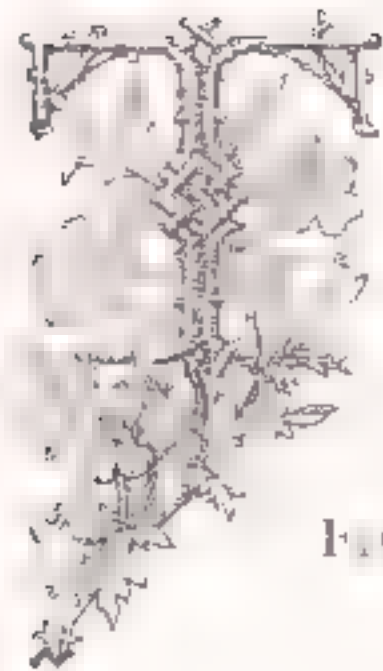


PLATE 24.



XXIV.

THE CHRISTMAS DINNER TABLE.



THIS Design is intended to appropriately decorate the Christmas Dinner Table, and consists of a Wreath which is composed of pieces of Fine-leaved Ivy, Leaves of Variegated Box, Holly, Sprays of Mistletoe, intermixed with Small Apples, Winter Cherries, &c. &c. Nos. 1 are for Lamps; Nos. 2, Plants; Nos. 3, Plants, Nos. 4 Confectionery, Nos. 5 are intended to be Glass Dishes, large size, for Cut Flowers, Nos. 6 are Glass Tubes eight inches high; Nos. 7, Glass Tubes four inches high; and Nos. 8 are Small Low Glass Dishes—all to be filled with Cut Flowers.

CONCLUSION.



THE foregoing Designs are not intended to represent those only that are suitable to the Floral Decoration of the Table, but rather to serve as indications, or lines of departure from which other Designs can be eliminated, and which would of necessity demand modification in relation to the special appropriateness to each occasion.

It would have been easy, for instance, to have added symbolic designs for use at the banquets of the several degrees of Freemasonry, or for Societies with which Symbols of various kinds are associated; indeed there is literally no limit that floral design can reach, as we are forcibly reminded by Nature herself, who has never yet produced two leaves, two flowers, or two human beings precisely similar in all respects; but it has been thought unnecessary to do more than has here been attempted; viz., to suggest or direct the current in which Floral Decoration should flow, rather than to furnish designs to be blindly copied.

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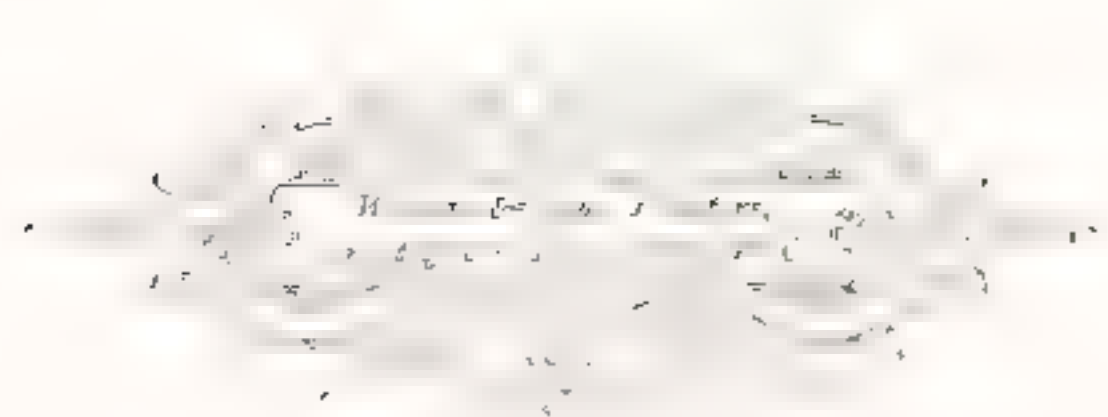
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FLORAL DESIGNS FOR THE TABLE.

